

Dawson N.Y. 12. 3-78.

H

Mr. Geo. L. Davenport.

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for the spec.
of ferns you send me in
return of Botrychium simplex.
The german translation of
your very interesting article
on the vernation of Botrychium
has not reached me yet - might
take quite a while yet, as
there is too much "material" for
printing our periodicals.
its soon as published, I will
send you my number, as there
can not be purchased other ones.
Will you be kind enough to
have "Mun's Catalogue" send
to me by one of your salesman.

Many botanists use it
for exchanges & I know nothing
about getting it, but suppose
it has been printed in Boston.
The article on '*Stepid. spiculorum*'
is very welcome. As soon as
time permits I shall study it.
Enclosed I send a specimen
of it as var. elevatum A. Br.

synon. *Callipteris Wilsons.*
collected years ago in the botan.
garden of Munster Germany.
What you think of it?

Yours truly

J. K. Wille.

St. Peter's Church
Brooklyn N.Y.

Oswego N. Y. 11. 5. 78.
 St. Peter's Church.

Mr. Geo. E. Davenport.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find specimens
 of *Botrychium simplex* of this
 locality. I am very glad to contribute
 some thing for science sake and do
 not want any thing in return. But
 if however you could provide for me
 a species of "*Asplen. ebneroides*" B. B. Kott.
Aspidium fragrans Swartz, *Woodisia Oregona*
 D. C. Eaton, *Lycopodium clopecuroides* L.,
 I would be very glad to receive either
 of them, as they are not in my herbarium.
 With many kind regards and my best
 wishes for your generous undertaking
 I am yours Respectfully

J. H. Wirble Dr. phal.
 over!

Your splendid article about *Botrychium*
in last year's Bulletin I have trans-
lated into German and published in
the *German Botanical Gazette*.

K

Wellesley Hills, Mass.,

Oct. 25, 1905.

Mr. George E. Davenport,
Medford, Mass.,

Dear Mr. Davenport,

My address will be as
above till about Nov. 15, after
that it will be Port Antonio,
Jamaica, till possibly June 15.

Letters to Wellesley Hills after
Nov. 15 would be forwarded.

Thanking you for your kind as-
sistance, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Alex E. Wight.

K

Lancaster Mass.

July 14th. 1880.

Mr. Geo. E. Sargent.

I will send by the same mail as this letter a small package of Ferns. May I trouble you to answer some questions in regard to them? I shall be very much obliged to you for doing so. These Ferns have been sent me, some with the names and some without, but I am not sure about them. 1st *Aspidium aculeatum* - var. angulare - from California. Neither my check-list nor your Herbarium Catalogue give such a variety. Is it correct? I send also an *Aspidium aculeatum* ^{1 1/2"} which came from the Sandwich Islands. Is that the typical form or some other variety? It seems small for the

former, comparing it with some
of the varieties.

2: The paper marked 2: contains
what seems to be species of *Pellaea*,
perhaps all of one kind. I have
no way of identifying them at all
satisfactorily. One resembles
Pellaea Canariensis, of which I have
specimens from the Sandwich
Islands, but I doubt about its
being that, really.

3: The paper marked 3: has, first,
what I feel quite sure is *Trichomanes*
radicans. ^(from California) There on the
second page, I do not know.

I hope that I am not asking
too great a favor of you. Please
do not answer until it is quite
convenient for you to do so.

I have examined quite carefully
the Flora in the vicinity of my old
residence, Farmington - Conn.

You may be interested to know that *Comptosia*
very like *Blau*, I think, grows there on Nag, rock quite
abundantly in one locality. Also *Phacelium*
Commersonia, *Hibiscus* - and by geotherm *Paludatum*, *Scirpus*.
It is a very fine botanical region - the lower hills
containing extensive tracts of bog, rocky wetlands,
and meadows and dry, sandy pine woods and some
large swamps. It is very like the thicket of *Myrica* that
grows on more exposed of dry hills than I and
hence probably secure one for the future.
My address is New C. C. Hillier - Lancaster
Mass.

Yrs. respectfully,
Charles C. Hillier.

NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB.

K
Boston, June 11, 1896.

Mr. G. E. Davenport.

Dear Sir:-

At the last meeting of the New England Botanical Club the Committee on the Herbarium reported that the sum of \$300. was requisite to furnish the room at its disposal in the University Museum, and to provide the necessary supplies for immediate use. The report of the Committee was accepted unanimously by the Club and the Treasurer was authorized to take the necessary steps to raise the amount required.

I am happy to state that a substantial amount has already been pledged, so that the establishment of the Herbarium is assured provided those members of the Club who have not yet subscribed give the undertaking a reasonable support. Will you kindly send to the Treasurer such sum as you are willing and able to devote to this object? It is hoped that everyone will make some contribution however small.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Respectfully yours,

Frederic F. Williams, Treas.
41 Franklin St.
Boston

Lousville Ky

Dec 30

My Dear Mr. Davenport

I had a visit from my friend Mr. Schmidt last evening, he had just arrived. I was glad to meet you. Mr. Schmidt is a first rate fellow. He has had a long holiday and I think he has enjoyed it. Well, you know ~~the~~ can afford it. I have got to work again and busy preparing goods for the annual exposition, it is a kind of a bore, but it seems we have to make a show.

I received a Salem paper to day, complimentary to me as a metal worker, well I suppose I have got to stand all that flattery. I believe the book has been a success after all, but the sales are rather limited. By the way I received your friend John Robinsons sermon *Thou Shalt Honour & Ours*. I have not read it carefully yet, the first impression I am sorry to say was disappointed, it seems to have been got up in a hurry and with out system, there is it that professional

Book Maker and Publishers, always manage to get the plates in a place they have not business, for instance the plate "fern structure, inserted in the article" Fern literature, Plate 1. is a very poor wood cut ~~the~~ drawing looks very mechanical like, In fact I think all the illustrations are poor, The book has the appearance as if it was got up to sell but I have no doubt but what it will be useful to those who are interested in the cultivation of ferns, especially exotics, quite a number of books pertaining to that are published in England, I saw one last week, The Fern Paradise (Heath), this book was gotten up very handsomely, The first moment of spare time I have I will go over Mr Robinson's book carefully, I had a letter from Mrs Richards, Bradford a few days ago, she said she would review my Ferns for the local paper, she seemed interested in the work, she told me she paid a visit to Mr Robinson and saw through his Green House, she is perfectly delighted, You may ~~not~~ think that I ought not to talk that way about Mr Robinson's book, but I am only saying what I think, I ~~was~~ very much

obliged to you for your criticisms when I was preparing my book, and I will only be too glad to have you tell me very plainly any other mistakes you have noticed, Now about my trips to the mountains, I found the *C. vestita* quite plentiful and fair specimens, I also found *A. R. T. muric*, this fern is very rare in N. Y. I do not know of any one who has found it but myself, I enclose you an *Asplenium* what is it, is it *parvulum*, The small fronds look a little like *Bradleyi*, I have no description of *A. parvulum*, Prof. Gray in The Amer. Journ. of Sci. & Art. says that he thinks that I must have the *parvulum* from my remarks on *claneum*, but if this is the *parvulum* I never could make such a mistake, This is a well marked species I found it growing on an exposed high ridge of sand stone, I also found small specimens of *claneum* Whonten, *Permatopteris* and *C. vestita* in the same place, I may make a few notes for The Bulletin or The Gazette, I sent a long article to The New York Tribune on my recent trips I hope they will publish it, I described a "Scene in the Mountains" It will give you an insight into these

Poor ignorant people live —

I received a package of over 100 specimens from Richter Lajos (Hungary) a few days ago I have not had time to examine them yet but I have made up my mind to collect nothing but ferns, have given up the idea of making a general herbarium. I will willingly send the specimens to you or any of your botanical friends if they remit me the expressage or there that was \$2.40 I believe. The plants are in good order and all correctly named, I sent him a number of specimens, this in his exchange,

I believe I have written plenty now. Dr Schmidt told me about your great sorrow about the death of your boy,

I hope you are now recovered from your sickness and that all the rest of your family is enjoying good health.

Yours friend

John Williams

I send you a small chamber and what I call
Lambton, but in making better description of Brooklyn
it seems to agree with it. I have seen Brooklyn the old
Lambton different, with more

reminded all this, but it seems
this is the regular ~~way~~ Publishers
way.

Best wishes to your wife
and family.

Yours Sincerely friend
John Williamson

Louisville Ky
June 24,

My Dear Mr. Davenport -

Your letter & specimens
received. Many thanks. I was very
sorry to hear of the death of
your father. I have troubled
you I am afraid a little too much
but I am anxious to get my
work as nearly perfect as I can
and I have no one ~~here~~ here
to ask a question of.

You say you think I have not
managed the Woodcock in to send
you. I thought that was a pretty
good plate. It is very like the
specimen I received from
Mr. Rielzeuf, and to get these

large plants on such a small
page is very trying, however I
am very glad of any criticisms you
make. I have no doubt but
what you will find several of
the 65 or 67 that you will not
admire, I am well pleased with
Mr Tascum's work, he is not
afraid to make bold strokes with
his pencil, but I think he has
taken a little more liberty with
the Dicksonia. punctilobula
than I would have cared to do
especially for a scientific work.

I enclose you a print of
A. spinulosum one that you sent
but I do not like it, if I
had made the under side a shade
lighter the effect would have
been better, you tell me what
you think of it, The *A. Boutin*
is sketched on the State house.

I will etch that in a few days
I have about concluded to accept
your *A. americanum* - and *Boutin*
and keep out the *A. spinulosum*.
About the *A. aculeatum*,
I of course intended the Var *Braunii*
and the naming of the Woodwardia's
this was caused by the plate
getting in the wrong envelope
when I sent them to the engraver
to get them numbered, but I will
see that the descriptions are all right,
I was up in the mountains last
Sunday but did not
succeed very well, I have written
my experience to Mr Peabody
he may show you the letter,
I see Prof Eaton has dedicated
his work to Gray, and instead
of 30 parts we have to have 17
this seems to me to be very unbusiness
like, a little forethought would

Illustrations. I hope he will not
give any miniature portraits.

I think my plan of giving one
part. full size is much better.
That giving a reduced figure
I mentioned that to Prof Eaton
once, but the very next number
contained The Almshouses.

I will be glad to hear
from you at any time.

By the way I notice you have
mentioned in your catalogue
that you propose setting out
"Farm of New England".

Remember me kindly
to your family.

Yours Sincere
Friend

Wm Williams

Louisville, Ky —

My Dear Mr. Davis —

Your Postal Card received
a few days ago informing me of your family
troubles. I sympathize with your very
much. I earnestly hope the health
(one of the greatest blessings) will soon
be restored to you and all your family.
Calling at the Post Office this morning
I received your letter, and I concluded
to answer it at once because my correspondence
accumulates & I might leave it off
too long. I am very busy with Fern
Etchings. I will send you a number
of the plates in a few days for your
criticism. I am not getting on as fast
as I would like. having a good deal
of bad luck with my plates, and
besides, it is very troublesome when you

have worked several nights on a plate
and have to do it all over again, first
because some little thing went wrong
in the manipulation, The temperature
is likely to be more regular now, & I
think I will be more fortunate.

If not too much trouble will you send
me a good Characteristic specimen of
Cryptogramme acrostichoides R.Br.

I believe I have every thing else,
Mr. Kott sent me a nice lot of
specimens from Canada.

I am going through your Catalogue
and will arrange them in the
same manner. I want you to
straighten me up on the Aspidiums
but no hurry yet.

I have not had time to write a
notice of your Catalogue yet
but will do so. My friends here
who subscribed to it are well
pleased. Prof. Lilbarger is now

making a thorough search for
Chenopods. I ought to find it. —
You ought to send one of your Catalogues
to the New York Nation. I was astonished
to find the number of inquiries
after the Etchings from the notice
this paper gave me.

Lepidocottus Scribner, and
Diedel Mead & Co. all sent for
specimen copies. It is just possible
I may sell more than I expect
People do not care about subscribing
to any work (especially high price)
until they see it. I do not blame them.
I have enough to justify me to go on.
You say you intend receiving my
terms by, from a different
stand-point from any you have
seen. I am at a loss to understand
but I can afford to wait until you
are ready. I am beginning to be
anxious to see Mr. Huxon's form

Louisville 13
June 10

My Dear Mr. Davenport,

Your kind letter reached me this afternoon. I expected I would have had a bound copy to send you by this time, but I will have to wait a few days yet. I have a good idea how my book is going to look now. I have a copy before me partly bound, cut and trimmed, it looks very well. I think you will be pleased when you see it it is so richly illustrated. The Polyodonichthys looks better in the book than separate. I rather like it it is different from any of the others. But in turning over the pages, it strikes you as being worthy of a second look. The *A. boreoborensense*, is I think the finest illustration I have. I never liked it, & I tried to touch it up, and spoiled it. I am sorry I did not make another one. The *C. Claytoniana* is also rather indifferent, but it is too late now, if ever a second edition should see the light I will have these two removed, and others of a more respectable appearance put in their place. I received a prospectus from Cassin of Mr. Robinson's "Ferns in Their Homes & over's" Tell Mrs. Robinson I will exchange ^{one copy} with him. I want to make a good collection of books of this nature. Botanical books are the only kind I can afford to buy now. My other reading I get up

out of the library

I shall not fail to send copies of my book to the papers you mention. I of course will send to the Naturalist, Silliman's Journal, Nature, Harper, Scrivener, &c. &c.

You are very kind in offering to write a few notices. I appreciate this very much. The local press has favored me many favors, and I think will give me a good send off.

I will send you our Evening Post, next week it will contain a very elaborate Review, by a gentleman who is a thorough Art student, and understands enough about botany to make it interesting. He is one of my best friends and of course may be somewhat prejudiced in my favor.

I received the Botanical Gazette, with your notice it was very complimentary. I think more than what I deserved. I may tell you the papers here agree it in full. I took the liberty to quote part of your notice, on the P.O. Card, I know the value of your judgment in matters of this kind, and this little extract will help me a great deal. I thought you would have no objections. This letter Mr. D. looks very much like a fellow blowing his own horn, but to tell you the truth if I leave the pushing and advertising to my publisher, I will fare badly. I have had to watch the whole affair from beginning to end very closely, they certainly have made a pretty piece of work

but not without a good deal of hammering,
will you be kind enough to send me the notices
you make on any others you see. I will see all the
magazines myself at the library.

I will get at the etchings I promised you
very soon now, and will ob~~y~~ your instructions
about endorsement. I sometimes wonder if you
can read my hand. I have such a scrawl.
I think writing ought to be done away with and
some other method invented, it takes so much time.
I am glad you are willing to keep up the correspond-
ence. I intend to make note this season, but I
have so great difficulty in getting away from business.
I have made some drawings of the Aspidochelone
you sent me. I noticed the glandular hair in
the incubia. I think a series of plates illustrating
all the forms & varieties of Spermislossus would be of
some value. I did not allude to this character in
my ~~own~~ description. I got bewildered over the whole
subject, after reading Zuercher, Hooker & others on the
subject. I concluded just to let it go.

Now Dr. Davenport I want you to do me a
favor, can you give me the necessary information
where I can get good etching material, such as
ink, paper, oil, &c. some establishment that
furnishes printer material probably would be the place.
If I had the address of a good Boston house
I would write thus, I want the best of every thing

I am going to print off several sets as I told you before. If I of course want them to look as well as possible.

After this job is off my hands I will be looking around for something else. I have three or four plans, whether to stick to ferns, or try flowers. Flowers are very fascinating, their graceful curves and diversity of forms, are just my delight, but I think it is my duty to give my attention to ferns, at least for several years. I am comparatively young and in good health, and hope to be of some service to my fellow-men, at least do something to help along the cause of truth.

Yours respectfully
John Williamson

Louisville Ky

April 9.

My Dear Mr. Townsend

I send you a few more
etchings. The Botrychium I suppose is the
var obliquum. This is the common form
found here. The moment I saw your
specimen I recognized the difference at
once. The *A. thelypteris* and *A. noveboracensis*
I also send. These forms are so much alike
especially in form of the pinnule, that it
is difficult to express their character by
the illustration. You see I have made the
one more delicate than the other. I am pretty
well pleased with the *Thelypteris*, I think I
have succeeded in getting the texture of this fern.

I had a letter from Prof Gray this
morning; he is the critic for the Nation
I am not so much afraid now. I will send
him some of my last etching, and probably a
complete set, as I intend to give ^{the same} just,
I am getting on pretty well, and I think
the publisher is going to spread himself
however I will not say too much.

Mr Townsend. I know you are busy and
I hope I am not boring you to make

Yrs Last

L - Williams

I also send Fertilization plate

Fig 425 from Sachs the others from Watson

63 Market St

1 Laneside

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your P.O. card received

I had forgot about ebousson and
ebousson. I will send them to you
soon. You must remember I did not
collect the ebousson. This was sent me
by Prof. West. I had a letter from
him today. He is to send me with
his things to look over. He collected them
at Cumberland Gap. I might find
some they were among them. He also
says in his letter that he possibly may
get some more specimens of ebousson
next season. About the Permian
I cannot understand what has come over
it. I know now I did not send it
but where it is I cannot say. I had
it carefully sealed up in an envelope
& marked. I was particularly anxious
that you should see it because I
actually believe it was the Permian
the specimens were very small.

It may turn up - but I have so many
irons in the fire, that I forget
sometimes, I try to do too much &
suppose -

Now have you read the terrible
onslaught I have received from
Doc. Scribner - This is the first real
adverse criticism my book has re-
ceived. Have you any idea who wrote
it, I have no fault to find with
one criticizing my work, just as severe
as they please, but I certainly do
want my critic to point out
definitely, ~~the~~ where my work fails.
He seems to confine all his remarks
to the article on Structure & fertilization
The Cultivation & Classification
seems to please him, but because I
did not give an elaborate ^{article} ~~one~~
fertilization, especially, he seems very
much put out.
I am aware (& I have mentioned the
fact to you) that the fertilization article
might have been fuller -
but when I wrote it, I thought it

attention as it ought to have, would
require too much space & time -
therefore I concluded to devote that space
to Classification & analytical key -
But Mr Davenport I did not like
Mr Critic to make me say, something
I certainly did not say -

In speaking about the fertilization
proper. I quoted from his own

1) The wide distinction between spores &
seed is not made just at all & the
spores are most unhappily denominated
the organs of fertilization &c -

I may possibly ^{have} made some statement
in a general kind of way & about
the organs of fructification being
situated on the back of the frond -
but in speaking of fertilization proper
I distinctly say and in my own
words that "The prothallus may be
compared to a flower, since it
contains the fertilizing organs."
anthemida & archegonia. 11
When you have a little spare time

I want you to look over this —
and Mr Davenport without the
least hesitation I do believe the
illustration of the prothallus Fig 2
is ^{as} ~~as~~ correct & true to nature as any
illustration that was ever made
I have compared quite a number
and they are nothing but flat
meaningless diagrams

It is strange the Reviewer never
mentions a word about the
illustrations.

The rest of his criticism is so
vague & indefinite, to take
any notice of it.

Yours Truly

John W. Brown

This I believe is a constant Character,
every specimen I examined showed
this conclusively. The var. had the
hair as constant, as the type was
without them, I have a bottleful
of pieces of fruit preserved in alcohol,
decoloured of course, I can pick out the
type from the var. at a glance.

I will have them mounted and probably
stained, I have a young friend that
does excellent work.

The next point is the Veining.

If any one will examine 20 or ~~30~~ specimens,
of either the type or var, he will at
once see the difference. The var. has

The fruit vein running distinctly through
and generally swelling to ward the apex
of the vein. The type in well fruited
specimens distinctly stops at the point
of the fruit dot, looking as if the fruit dot
was borne on the end of the vein.

Some specimens I noticed were poorly
fruited these showed the vein perfectly,
a very little, but then it tapered to a

Aspidium Speciosum, Swartz

I found the typical form of this
fern last summer growing in a
rather sandy soil, in Otseham Co
about twelve miles from Louisvile,
The Geological character of this section
that is, the projecting rocks, and bed of
Creeks is pure lime stone, but this
little patch of woods, seemed to be
very sandy, and in fact the place
has a local name of Sand-hill.
Two other *Aspidiums* I found associated
with this form, *A. acrostichoides*, and
A. novboracense. The *A. thelypteris*
grows in a Marsh about 200 yds
from the edge of this wood, and in this
Marsh I also found two plants of
A. cristatum, the latter being very
rare from my experience in Kentucky.

I mention the locality, because I believe it is significant.

The first impression I had of this fern when I saw it growing, was that it seemed different from the common variety. The color the soft appearance of the whole plant and the mode of growth impressed me as being very different, although if my attention had not been drawn more particularly to this plant by your investigations

I might have concluded that the situation and other surroundings would account for the difference.

As far as I could see, the plants were very scarce I only ^{counted} ~~found~~ about 50. They were confined within a radius of 100 yds. From my experience the bar is not found within 100 miles of this locality, and that in a pure Sandstone region.

Just remember I send you a

specimen of this plant and you pronounced it a true *Spengeliana*. I was very busy then and had no time to make a thorough examination, and concluded to adopt the old name for the variety. Thus you remember all about.

Since then I have made some examination comparing the two plants. The bar however, I may say grows very abundantly in Grayson, Rockcastle & still in fact throughout all the mountain regions of Kentucky, especially the Sand Stone.

This fern grows luxuriantly. Not at all straggling, but forming a beautiful crown of fronds.

Now as regards the microscopic character of the two plants, I have nothing new to add. I am willing to endorse every thing you have said.

That is, first, in regard to the glandular hairs situated on the underside

point, The very opposite of swelling
as is shown in the other,

These then are the few observations
I have made, whether the locality or
soil has any thing to do with it I
cannot say, I will have more
time this season and will make
an effort to explore new fields
and if I can learn anything
further. You will be welcome to
the knowledge, It is unnecessary
for me to say anything about the
form of the plants, this you have
already discussed,

I went into this examination with the
intention of giving you the result
whether it corroborated with your
investigation or not.

I am anxious now to know what
you are doing towards the new work

I have been lazy, at least I have
these very little series of
Etchings, was finished. I have somewhere
about 16 copies on hand yet, Mr. Gray
has not sent for his, but don't say any
more about it. I don't do to press
this matter, the book is an expensive
one and I don't wonder if people
not buying it, however I am pretty
near square with my publisher.

How do you think a collection of
Orchids would do. Etching and description
I used to be very fond of this class of plants
I am going to ~~study~~ make some studies
of wild flowers this summer.

They must be exquisitely etched, the lack
of color must be made up in artistic drawing
however this is only a notion, I have at
present. I hope you are keeping
better now, I must see and try
if I can get your Unborn vol. 1 of 4 of
Form Etchings, ready. Will be, last to
from London.
Your friend
J. E. S.

Louisville Ky

Sept 19

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your letter received
I thank you for showing the book to
Mr Lacuriet. I really do not know
what to do about this. Mr L.
wrote me asking how many copies
I had the descriptions printed,
and what I would take for the entire
lot. Now how I stand at present
is this. I had descriptions printed
for 100 copies, thinking that would be
the limit of the sale. It would not
pay to electrotype the book, the
so few copies likely to be needed.
I only printed plates for 25 copies.
I had to be careful about this, the
publisher not willing to risk a cent.
The 25 copies are sold and I have orders
now for 8 more. Dodd Mead & Co of

New York wrote me they would
order in a few weeks but they could
not tell exactly how many. The
same with Robert C. Baker & Co. of Cin-
cinnatus has sent for specimen copy
I could not furnish it.

I think I could let Estes and
Laurel have 25 copies, but I fear
they will want too much discount
if possible I would like to make
a little myself. I worked pretty
hard and had some expense.

You are correct about holding
back the Transcript notice.
These things have all to be managed in
a business way.

I will print 50 copies and will
add *Adiantum Capillaris venosum* and
probably *C. montanum*. The other corrections
will be attended to. What do you
think about *Goldianum*.

I am anxious to see the Nation
notice. I am almost sure Prof
Eaton will be the reviewer
and I think it will be a kind of
half-praise, tempered with a few
remarks about the large ferns -
but you know I can't say a word.

I had a letter this morning from
my son, correspondent, he
gives me the particulars about the
Scelopendrum locality and has
promised me good specimens -

I will serve for you what I can -
I will make a note for the Long
Bulletin. The other ferns he sent
me, but all poor specimens. ~~were~~
Cheilanthes tomentosa, *C. vestita*
C. Oldhamensis, *Woodwardia*, like
species. *A. Bradleyi*, *A. parvula*
~~See~~ a few others but none unusual.
Anything new I will report -

Yours sincere friend
Wm. Williams

Louisville Ky

My Dear Mr Davenport

I enclose you an etching of
Aspidium fragrans. Do you think it is
all right. It is very like the specimen
I expect from one of Mr Hoystracks
drying. (I also enclose a pencil).
It seems to me that the pinnae
are rather narrow, and contracted like
this I want to use as my specimen copy
and of course want it perfect.

Please give me your opinion

I have received 12/13 of Eaton ferns of n g - They are much
better than the last, but why does the artist use so many
stiff lines. I had a letter from Mr I Warren Morrill
and he thinks my Aspidium boscianum is faulty. he thinks
I have made it a little too strong and vigorous in
growth. he says it is a delicate & graceful fern.

I examined quite a number and selected what I thought
was the most characteristic. I am very glad to get
criticisms from my friends and never fall out with any
one. all I want is to have my work right.

Now Mr Davenport I want to tell you something
that I think you will be glad to hear.

a few days ago
I just received, a most charming letter from
Philip Gilbert Hamerton. He is a great
favourite of mine. I have read quite a number of
his books, and of course studied his Etchings
& Etchings. He talks upon art subjects better
than any one I know. I sent him a
copy of my ferns as Editor of the Portfolio.
I also sent a few lines telling him what I
was doing in a humble way. He writes a
long complimentary letter, and advised me
to etch the common wild flowers, stating that it
would be advancing the science of Botany.
If I presented them in such a manner as I
have illustrated the ferns, this you know is not
practical. The field is too wide and time is too
short. I am going to stick to ferns.

I spent a pleasant evening last week with Edward
Hill, corresponded for your Boston Journal, and
New York Evening Post. He is on a visit to the
Southern County taking notes.

Drop me a line even you have time. I
do not want to encroach too much.

Your Sincere

Friend John Williams

figure, whether natural size or enlarged,
 The generic Character I of course
 will be able to manage myself
 I want to make all my studies
 original, it will be slow work,
 but I suppose we have plenty of
 time. About placing the illustration
 in the body of the text it is not
 practical except by wood engraving
 and I cannot do that, and to get
 it done would be beyond the reach
 of my pocket. Photogravure is practical
 I believe, but that would cost on an
 average \$10.⁰⁰ a plate, so that is
 out of the question. I must resort
 to my old plan of Etching.
 I do not know the exact size
 of Species Filemin. Send that
 (I mean the size of page) and what you

definitely ~~so~~ ~~the~~ I can be thinking
over the matter.

I think you did perfectly right
in refusing to let Mr Lockett's
Correspondent have your Botrychium
notes. I have to do all my
digging out myself. and so have you
This gentlemen can do the same.

Now what I would suggest is this
Let us get the work all completed
and a proof of every plate taken
before we say a word about publication
Send it then to some good responsible
house and see what they will charge
to do the work, or see what they
will give for the work including
my original plates. They may
not take it in a gift, because
I may tell you again. "Mighty Little"

Money in printing Fern books:

a very good plan would be after knowing the exact cost of the work ready to mail. we could issue circulars with a specimen plate asking for subscribers.

I think I would undertake this risk, However we can talk about that afterwards.

Let me know as soon as you can what you want me to begin on first. I would like to do some real good work on that book and I believe your reputation as a Botanist and more particularly as a Pterologist will induce the fern loving public to buy freely I hope so, I have been thinking

quite frequently I late to
 get out another Ed of Fernst
 lly - throwing out the poor plates
 and substituting good ones -
 but it is only a local ^{semi} flier
 and I do not know whether it would
 justify me or not. I could do it
 at little expense. The book was stereotyped,
 there are not many left
 but the sale is slow now -

I shall be glad to hear from
 you. Remember me to Mr. Heggins
 if you should see him -
 and compliments to your
 family.

Your sincere friend

John Williamson

I write you in the hope of some
 good news of your return to
 the old ground in England. I am
 ever your friend

My Dear Overport

I send you one or two pounds
of *A. Spinulosum*. I collected this
at the place where I got
the other plants last season. They
seem to be spreading. I have examined
a few pounds & I find them the
typical *Spinulosum*. I certainly
think you have made a good
bought especially in the inclusion
and to one who watches carefully
the texture seems different from
the variety. I am looking for
your long promised letter.
but I suppose you have always
plenty to do. I have not been
away anywhere this season. must
stick to business. Write soon.

Yours sincere friend

Wm. Williamson

Sausville - 17

I must congratulate you on your very critical
eye. If you look again at The Cordia Etching
you will notice an unfinished pinnæ. The one you refer to
when I said 76 The drawing on the plate. I of course
drew all my centre lines. The two lower pinnæ of
this frond was forgotten. I did not notice it
until I had a proof taken. I may complete it
yet. but it is a little risky. By the way I had a charming
letter this morning from your friend Mr. Higgins. he is
very enthusiastic over the plates. I hope every body will be as
well satisfied. I find I have no description for *C. bulbosum*
Your friend. I.W.



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER



Mr. George E. Davenport
& Hammett Place
Boston
Mass.

Laussville 1st

Oct 18th

I received your letter this morning and answer it at once. I rather suspected ^{Mrs Richards} was not the most capable person in New England to get up any kind of a Fern Book. She however is very modest about it, and lays no claims to having a 'Scientific' knowledge of the subject, I will quote from her letter so you must not judge of her too severe. "My plan for the Fern leaves was, to have two or three pages of text describing the ferns in a simple unscientific way with plates accompanying, similar to Beautiful Ferns published in London by Groombridge & Sons, they have described and represented ten ferns enclosed in a paper case. price 50 cents Mr Lockwood says that the tract object to the paper case. I thought if twelve or eighteen of our most beautiful New England ferns could be illustrated in this way and sold for a moderate price it would benefit both publisher and purchaser." She then says that she heard of you going to write a book on New England ferns, and it would

be so faithfully done than there would be no need or place for anything else, I merely write this to let you know the exact situation, I have not written ^{to} her yet, but will do so to-morrow, I of course would never think for a moment to making any illustration for her, whether you intended doing anything or not I would have consulted with you first any how, Since this question has been opened I would like to make a suggestion, from nearly all the criticisms ~~that~~ my books has received they objected to the title, as having a too local character, I of course think that every State in fact every County ought to have a local flora, in general botany or in some special dept; but it is not necessary that this local flora should be a very elaborate work with illustrations but more of a descriptive catalogue with localities particularly marked, I trust now if you getting up a New England book why not make it ferns of N. E. This, I know you will say, will interfere with Prof Eaton's plan not necessarily, Prof Eaton's book can never reach the people few persons will pay \$5.00 ~~can pay~~ for a book on ferns, What I mean is a compact little book probably on the same plan as my own, but gotten up with more care, I would be quite willing to join you

in such a work, you to write up the scientific part and I would attend to the artistic, I want to make a number of investigations this winter on scabiosa, a number of my microscopic drawings are copies, but in a new work of this kind let us have as much original matter as possible. We need not be in a hurry about this but probably be better and get our plans well laid before saying much about it.

From your knowledge of the subject, your clear manner of stating facts and the ~~fine~~ command of language you have shown in every thing I have read of yours. This book ought to be a classic. I certainly will not allow any illustrations to pass unless criticised by the best authorities. I have well formed an artistic correspondence with some Etchers and connoisseurs in New York who will only look at the work from an artistic point of view.

These are merely suggestions I throw out, if nothing comes of them no harm done.

I am making up a package of plants for you. I have not succeeded in getting the G. ebneroides. I can spare you a friend of the plant. Prof. Wildbayer sent me. I think he only found two specimens. I spent a day

in the County last week, I found *A. ebenum*
and *Comptosium* in great abundance, one rock was literally
covered with these two ferns, if the *ebenoides* is a hybrid
why did I not find it, it certainly could not have
a more suitable place to grow. The millions of spores
of both plants must have fallen and needed to get
for years, I laid in a splendid lot of *Pinus*,
you never saw such specimens 7 1/2 & 8 inch long.

I fancy there were 100 trees with the *incanum*
all sycamore with the exception of two elms.
I will do what I can for you in the way of
plants, I'll be glad to hear from you
at your convenience, By the way, you spoke about
remitting the amount due, you take that due
and present Mrs Davenport with some small
Christmas gift for me, you know I am a
bachelor.

Yours Respectfully

John H. Wimmer

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Saturday evening, 1874

My Dear Dr Davenport

Your letter came to hand this afternoon and after reading it I felt I ought to reply to it once. You remember the old saying in the very old book, "I wish mine enemy would write a book" That remark showed very clearly there were critics in those days.

From my short experience I wish my friend would write a book that is if he receives as many congratulatory notices and letters I have received within these last few days, I do not think there has been any transaction in my whole life that has given me so much pleasure as to know from eminent and disinterested men that my work is acceptable. I have no desire for notoriety I rather shun it and the private letters you have sent me from time to time are cherished I assure you. Mr Redfield sent me quite a long letter speaking in the highest praise of my work, and the plan I adopted. Mr Martindale also writes "I am pleased with it, would not express my feelings. I am indeed highly gratified &c." Prof Gray writes that he will review it in the Aug. Number of American Jour. Science, and probably for the Waters

He says he may ask Professor to Review it for
the Nation, he did not say much but seemed to be
pleased, The Worcester Spy has a very complimentary
notice, and so far I have been very fortunate.
Some of my friends here think I will loose my head
with so much praise, but they were never greater
mistaken, of course I am pleased, who would not
be, but I am just going on in my usual way
planning out some other work, I have no use for
a lazy man Mr Davenport, he has no right to
exist. If a man tries and fails well try again.
That is my motto, You ought to see some of my
first etchings, I was ashamed of them myself.

Well I have moralized enough, not a little business,
You say you have pointed out some errors,
that is perfectly right, I know quite a number
myself, and if I wrote a review of my own
book I probably would be more severe
on myself than you are likely to be.

The Wot of Sachs, will come up, every time I look at
the etching I like the way I have managed it
but it is not true, I suspected it long ago, but
only lately I found it ~~out~~ ^{out}, I enclose your remarks
in this question, I dug over an hour one day trying
to get a complete wot out, but I gave it up,
I satisfied myself however that it would require
considerable page work to illustrate the Wot of Pteris

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. 1877

acquiesce as it ought to be,

From the word Mr Davenport about your new England
ferns, Mr Comertons I have no doubt could do the
work satisfactory, but probably he is too busy.

If you cannot get any body else I believe I would
like to do this work, we may talk over the matter
anyhow, I think with your knowledge your facilities
and the material you possess, a very valuable work could
be gotten up, I think with my knowledge and experience
of handling the etching needle I would guarantee to do
the work as well as the best I have in my book.

You can arrange your Classification Key &c to suit
yourself. You think over this but do not say much
about it at present, you know I am interested
in the Ferns of Kentucky at present, and I better
and let that cool a little.

I will mail Mr Faxon C Comertons on Monday, I have
put it to long, and I will send a print of C. vestitus
printed direct from my plate, you see it and tell me
if the paper and size will suit you. I am only going
to print a set of the ferns that show the full plant, such as

The 'Bradley's' Trichomanes, & you know what I
mean, not the magnificent views, —

Your case however Mr. Davenport is an exception,
if you say I will take pleasure in sending the
complete set for you, let me know,
don't hesitate I owe a great deal more than the
I think I have said about enough

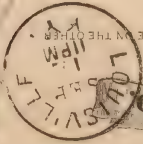
Yours Truly
John Williamson

I may spend my hours on a Bradley's hunt
If I get any "I'll remember you"

Yours W

Dear Friend. How would it do to remove
the numbers entirely from the plates. I had
them put there so as the binder would make no
mistake, but as there will be so few copies of
the book printed I could arrange the plates for the
binder. If you should think I ought to make
any of the plates over, say so, and, send me
your suggestion. This book must be perfect, at
least as near that as possible. I will not grudge
the work. I suppose you have noticed how I
have A. Goldicamum. There is some more of my
very smart printer. N. M~~os~~ was all right, but they
picked up some old botany and changed, after I
had checked the proof. The vargenicum in Indica is
of the same class of error. Yours friend. F. W.

George & Davenport
& Hamilton Office
Boston Mass



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER.

Dear Mr. Townsend -

In my letter yesterday
I said something about getting into
trouble with these small Woodcock -
I now ask your advice. I have just
examined and compared the Woodcock
Galleries and with the Woodcock
Hyperborean you sent me.

Mr. Gilbert sent me the Galleries
and I made my statement from it.
Your Hyperborean looks so like it
that I fear there is some mistake
in Hooker & Bonner. There is an
illustration of Hyperborean, but it is
represented as being exactly the young
unfolding form. The single form
enclosed in your paper, however,
the character of the Hooker & Bonner
illustration, than the Hooker & Bonner

low hands, ~~I am~~ ^{the}
famine of you planet
is a little longer and a little
more cut than Mr Gilbert.
But how I am going to represent
this difference of my Etching needle
will be different to say -
"it costs the publisher all
too prices." I send you
them for convenience. Please
return as soon as possible -
I will send you back everything
you desire when I am done
& that will be very short -
Excuse me for taking up so
much of your valuable time -

Yours Truly
L. B. K. M. M. M.

When you write please let me know your
opinion about representing the A. E. C. M. M. M.
as so writing at the office my illustration upon
this it will be very short - 116

Thursday

My Dear Friend

Yours of the 30th was received,
I am sorry that the Lib frame panels were not
gold plated. I'm afraid they are tarnished pretty bad
but you can explain the situation. If they do not like
the nickel frame they can get up something of their
own and I will make the Etchings & correspond
I sold three frames yesterday. The party selected those
in preference to any other. You are very kind in placing
the Garfield frame at Shreve Crump & Low. I do not know
when I am going to get square with yourself and Hyman.
As you suggested I wrote a personal letter to Mr
Crutup some time ago thanking him for placing them
(the plaques) in his window. I said very little about
business. I have not heard from him yet. They understood
the price I suppose 15.00. each. I was waiting so as
they would consider the matter. I suggested that I was
willing to give them some control over the sale of the
work, but I said nothing definite. If they don't write
in a few days do you think I ought to write to the firm

probably they are waiting to see what impression these
plaques will make among their customers before
ordering any more. I am going to be prepared anyhow,
although it is pretty hard work. I sent one to St. Louis
to day. one goes to Cleveland to-morrow. The encomium
is certainly very flattering. one thing I want to ask
you about and that is the Florentine frame. is this
frame made of solid bronze metal or only imitation
bronze ~~and~~ I know the style of frame very well and I
believe I can make this as well as any body, please let me
know what a frame suitable for a 10 inch plaque is
worth in Boston, that is, about what you have to pay for
them. To get up a good pattern is the only difficulty, once
this was made the casting is simple enough. Have you a
photo of one, one thing more and you are done. The weather we
had here last week was very changeable some days very cold and
suddenly a warm change. In the Jewellery store where the
Marine plaque was placed I noticed that every thing was
running with dampness. The burnished plaque looked dull and
not at all inviting. I had it sent to our shop to have it
cleaned a little before sending it home. I took it out of the
frame and had it washed off in hot water with a little soap. it
at once looked as bright as ever. but I know from experience
if this work is kept ~~at all~~ with any care at all it will not tarnish
and as I mentioned before the finger marks can be cleaned off with a
soft rag. Your friend, J. H. I will talk about ferns after work.

JOHN WILLIAMSON & CO.

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

227 and 229 West Market Street,

Louisville, Ky. Aug. 1887

My Dear Overport,

Your letter was received suggesting that I make an exhibit at your Mechanics Fair.

This I had partially concluded to do. My attention was drawn to this about two weeks ago by seeing a prospectus of the Exposition. I at once wrote to Mr James Little junr. a gentleman I met in Boston, Clarence Cooks nephew, I saw his name or his Father's name as one of the directors. He wrote me that I was too late applying for space, as all the Room had been taken up.

I then wrote to Murdock Grate Co. if they were going to make an exhibit, and some one of the firm wrote me they were. I then concluded to send them something, but your letter puts the thing in a better shape. I therefore will send just as many things I can. will write again. I have just got up a Bronze Metal Tile. I send you photo. it looks first rate it is in Relief something similar to Loug's Tiles, but much sharper and wrought out with a good deal of freedom. I will have three designs ready and will send them to Shaw. This will be something entirely new. I am corresponding with them now but if you should see Mr Shaw tell him I will make a good show. I think those Tiles will be quite a feature not only to my interest but to the Murdock Grate Company. The Photograph shows the whole thing complete

63 Market Street,

My Dear Mr. Townsend,

I have just mailed

you 24 more of my plates.

Some of them are not as well
printed as I would like. I will
see that they make them a little
stronger. Pl. 47. is rather weak
you see they have two 38.

one should be 39. C. bulliferus.

I think this a good plate.

60 your vernation is turned upside
down. 71 & 72 are rather close.

in Pl. 40 do you think I ought
to separate the calculated pinnae
from the rest of the plant.

Every thing is ready to go to press.

The next time I write I hope
to send your copy. I must now

attend to the sale. I am afraid

I am not a good hand at that.

You know I own the copy right

& over, they want it. I want you

to do what you can for me. I have

worked hard at this. I may get up

another circular. I was told about

another popular fern book, being published

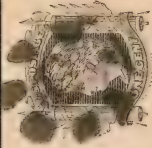
next month. What do you know about it.



POSTAL CARD



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER



George E. Sampard Esq
24 S. Hancock Place
Boston Mass

3



Salon with the National Ant.
it was complimentary, but
considering the amount of
work in the book, he might
have said a little more.
However I am perfectly satisfied
I am doing well with my
subscription list. I had a note
from Rogers from Cal. last week
and this morning I had a letter from
one of your friends who gave a specimen
for Shreve, Eschsch. glabra. I suppose
I think he will be a copy of the
book. It is too late now to
work arrangements with Eschsch. glabra
they were made in letter. I am
glad. The book will sell.
I want some of your notes for
my collection. I would like to get
the book out the first of Nov.
I had a fine letter from Mr. Shreve
last week. He is a very good man.
He has since sent me a small

Lancaster 13.

My Dear Mr. Shreve

Your P.D. card received this
morning. You seem to think Eschsch. glabra
is rather rare. I have
written to my correspondent & ~~from~~
you have a letter of my family but
really I hardly think I have found me
Lancaster your letter. He has not
I think it I was a little disappointed
not write for particular at once
and also for specimens. He always
put off until he ^{must} ~~must~~ ^{bring} it
has written. I am not sure about
the geography of the place. but
I think it is in the mountains
in S.E. Texas. He certainly
sent me a piece of the plant
sown with the other I must tell you
before. He has since sent me a small

Plant. Every specimen, I at once
divided it up and dried it.

I could see at once the plant
was taken from some house
from one of the most of the
house a young specimen of *Platanus*
long petiole & below, a fern
that is somewhat a pest, in all
greenhouses, but also along with
it be had a copious lot of *Chrysomelids*
and, to preserve them.

Now I think the South American
and the other nations were found
young where he has deposited
and for the sake of preservation
he cannot then to the present time.

You know, however, that he is
very old before, I told him in
my last letter, that the plant
could have no value whatever from
a botanical point of view, except
the character, and value of the

Direct from its natural habitat.
I write him in a day or two.
I send you his letter, with description
I have sent to the copies of drawings.
I have not mentioned any other
in my way, I merely mention the
plants that were sent me and
copied part of the letter.
Every most of the same kind.
I am going to write to the
very best of the same kind.
I shall tell him to
hold back = I think you had
better let your name, it will
be in, and mention about 20 of
them. 70. species illustrated
67 plates, Maclean for the notes
give me 10 plates. The notes
last week give 55, I cannot
understand why such mistakes are
made, I am sure you will

To send for your Catalogue
I have not sent before

criticism of your Catalogue
at Silchester. I must try
✓ put it I have a present
to be published.

I have not time to forward
to refer to the other
interesting feature of your
Catalogue.

By the way, about Herslo
It makes my strange as to
get the way. If I were free
I would treat the matter in a
private Council of my
self very much interested
in it. I am very much
interested in it.

5 Please let me know what you
can about A.C. feeling weary
I have the same feeling

My Dear Mr. Davenport
I have very time
to forward a few lines

I am in trouble about
my printing. There are only
two days in this town that
can do this work of mine
No doubt who that the printing
is for the first 2nd or 3rd
and very long. It is at a distance
& much of work for two or
three weeks. The other one
asks so much to do this
work. That it will be in
impossible for me to do it.
I am independent

I twist a few plates on
my own press and ever
as I wish to find out how
well I could print.

Now I am printing in earnest
and I think you will not
have as many eyesores
in 2^d Ed. I am going
to print to night, so you
must excuse the miserable
letter. About Eels &
Lizards I made them a paper
offer of 25 copies. I have
not heard yet. If there is
to be anything in a business
way in the book I want to
make it.

I have sent an apc. of
Sceloporus & Tery Buller
I have no doubt about its

reliability. In a few days
I may receive fresh specimens
I will send you the
birds. I had an amazing
letter this morning from my
correspondent. I returned
his plants perfectly sound
to thought he had sent
15 new specimens and was
very much disappointed when
he discovered he had not any.
They were to be sent
"he says" "well in summer"
up the hill & wounded, by
your decision. I find
myself short of 15 varieties
of birds & 3 lizards & c.
It is a great enthusiasm
I will write to him in
a few days. I will tell you

63. Market St.
Louisville 12

My Dear Mr. Davenport,

Your welcome letter was
received, your letter is always welcome, because
I know it is full of good things to read & heart
encouragement. The introduction ^{to} ~~of~~ The Boston
Traveller's Guide on my book is a beautiful
piece of writing. In addition I will give you
was too enthusiastic. I am probably too
enthusiastic. I am sure it is the best of all
things. I think it the world would be the
the struggle for existence forces us to look
out for bread and butter. This part is always
before us, but it is the finer part of our nature
that ought to be nurtured. I am glad you are
so well pleased with my little book. I trust to do
faithfully what I undertake to do, and to encourage
I have received will only be an impetus for me
to do better and study harder.

I had a letter from Mrs. Richards ~~and~~ West yesterday
yesterday, speaking in high terms about the book
then proposing to get up a cheap World on paper.

England. I am, similar to that published
by Green bridge & Sons London - I do not
understand too very well, probably you know
something a little bit. I think she wanted
to assist in the illustrations, but she wanted
that she heard that you had some idea of
publishing a "Faint Book" and if so, then
her effort would not be required because
"There will be no need for any thing else, as
work will be done so faithfully."

I have not written here but will not commit
myself to anything until I hear from you.
The fact is (financially) found books are a poor
investment, before you do anything I will give
you my experience -

I will be glad to send a few plants to the D. H. Martineau
Hos. See, Compton, I. Martineau, I. Brading -
maybe a few others, A. Martineau, was sent to me.
I am not at all. The first time only found two plants.
I checked the Martineau, I have not found it, I have found
luck, I would give an sketch of my Mountain Brading.
I am just of back-woods trip, this article I think will
do some good. It has drawn the attention of the Episcopal Ministry
to some good people. I looked for you. Spiritism last Winter
I think they have given me the cold shoulder, by the way I moved

Since I moved I have not a good deal of time to devote to the illustration of the book.

The upper surface is almost smooth, and the character of the fern is somewhat different.

When I make an Etching of a plant I never forget it. I have all its characters impressed on my mind. I should like to study those disputed plants you spoke about. I will soon have a little leisure.

In your last letter you remarked that by giving an Etching for 15^{cts} to any one that asked it I would lessen the value of the book to subscribers. I hardly think so. You know 7.50 is a big price to pay for a book and strangers are not willing to invest so much money without knowing what they are going to get, (so much humbug everywhere)

I only give one plate without description or any thing else. I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as you can. Your sincere friend
Wm. Williamson

Louisville Ky

My Dear Mr Davenport

I have at last found a breathing spell, at last enough time to drop you a few lines. I have before me a copy of 2nd & 3rd Term Etchings. I think you will like it. I will mail the copy you ordered for the Martine Library tomorrow. You can have a good look at it. You see I have made a few changes. In the descriptions as you suggested, and the new plates are the Adiantum, Gysiopteris, Pteris, Pellaea, and Asplenium peruvianum. I intended to change

Cheilanthes tomentosa, and Asplenium
trichomanes. but I had not time
you may wonder why I changed the
plates. you will notice on the
old plate where my needle slipped
barely a bad line I tried to
remove it but spoiled the whole
thing so I had to make a new one
I have chosen the underside to illustrate.
I believe I have succeeded in giving the
hard texture of this plant.

I have received the Loney Bulletin
with your notice. I appreciate your
kind wishes for the success of the
book very highly. I have tried to
do faithful work. I also received
the Californian paper with your
notice. I enclose your my circular
I think it is very neatly gotten up.
You see I have given credit to

The Transcript and not to you
as I ought to have done.

My reason for doing so. was that
a number of parties will receive
the circular that has read your notices
in Bulletin and Naturalist.
They might think it strange that
you should write so many.
Am I right in this?

I am anxious to know how you
are getting on with your Cheilanthes.
I hope all will come out right for you.
I have divided the Sceloporus from
Linn. I will send you a good
figure. I can also send you a
good plant of C. tomentosa,
but it seems to me that this
form is a little different from
what I had to make my drawing
from. I wish you to look at it
carefully

Louisa 19

My Dear Mr. Davenport

I have mailed all the Copies
that you desired, if you should want any
more just drop me a card.

I had a very nice letter from Mr. Redfield
this morning, congratulating me on my work,
I was very ~~happy~~ glad to hear from the East.
Prof. Gray has also written me, He said the
book came to late for the July American Journal of
Science, but he will attend to it in the Aug.
number, He will review it in the Nature
or probably he would get Prof. Eaton to do it.
He did not say much but seemed pleased,
I am looking forward to your notice with
some interest.

Yours Respy -
Wm. Williamson

Lounelle St.

Dear Mr. Davenport.

I have mailed copies to The Naturalist, Silliman, Nature and Prof. Gray. I also send The Extenscript and Advertiser copies to you along with your own copy, you see they get into good hands, I am anxious to know your opinion. You have read our Evening Post I suppose at least I mailed it. It was of course complimentary. The ~~writer~~ Dr. Holland is my friend and he has taken ~~an~~ warm interest in my work since the beginning. In fact he was the first to believe in it. I expect you however will judge the work on its own merits. An Artist of some reputation asked me to day if I made the root from Sachs, I think he was somewhat doubtful, I believe I have been very careful in giving credits even to the minutest detail. Of course I do not expect to satisfy everybody. You must tell Mr. Faxon that I will certainly return his Tomentosa this week, I may send it with his copy. The publishers are of course mailing the books, I fancy Mr. Redfield will be a little disappointed with my having so few localities. Thus I also regret, but what could I do. My time to Botany is very limited, I do not know of any local collectors that I could trust without seeing the actual specimens. I made the best of Short, Richdell & Clapp. I could, I have mentioned this in my preface, and if the book has any sale in the

State, I ought to give some incentive to the
study of ferns. I received the Bulletin this
morning I noticed that Mr. Rodfield communicated
the finding of *Lygodium* in abundance;

I think I have got the texture of fern better than in
any other plate,

Mrs. Davis part do you know any of the
Scribner Editors, I sent them an article about
16 months ago, and they accepted it and promised to
publish it as soon as they were done with Mrs.
Herrick's papers, you remember them I suppose,
the article I wrote then was on the adaptation
of wild flowers to ornamental art, I made
the drawings on the block, (wood cuts),

if it could come out now it might do me
some good, I wrote to the Editor last night
I have mailed him a copy of ferns,

I am not very anxious about the thing now, but
if they do not want to use it they ought
to send it back or at least pay for it,

How do you like my cover stamp, the letters are
not very good, but the basket shows out pretty
well.

Yours, Friend
John Williams

Louisville 12
May 4

My Dear W. Davenport

I have just got quit of business troubles for another week - and now for a few hours to ferns.

The transfer I send is (I think at least) an improvement on the last. The plate were etched deeper and they come out bolder in the printing. I am well pleased with the *A. Thelypteris*. I think the character of this fern is shown very well. all the *Fig's* are from nature with the exception of *Fig 4 & 5*, Plate 2. These I copied from Sachs. I want you now to look over every letter carefully, and report to ^{me} by Parcel. I got two proofs I will check one. See if I have the names and spellings all right. I would rather that my book be a week or so behind and be free of errors, than rush it through carelessly.

I have received Part. 475 of Eaton's Ferns J. E. N. A. It is too bad that *Aspidium* Plate 13 should read *Asplenium*. Such carelessness cannot be excused. Prof Eaton ought to see every proof. The inclusion is very much like the one I have etched to illustrate the genus *Aspidium*. In one of your letters you said that I had managed the *A. Novboracense* very well. I was not pleased at all with this etching and I think I ought to do it over again. The difficulty about the thing is this. It looks especially its outline is so like the *Thelypteris*, while the texture is so different.

If I have time I will do it again; if not I will let it go, but it seems to me that I ought to show it delicate tissue a little better.

In such small plates it is impossible for me to give a good view of the large ferns. I often wish I had a sheet as Mr & Mrs Norton to work upon.

I have to twist & bend $\frac{2}{3}$ plant to much that they look a little awkward, ~~and~~ crowded like.

By the way I read the Saturday Review Criticism on your Botrychies. It was very evident the

Reviewer did not know what he was talking about.

You might have named your plant as a member of the dist. Ord Solanaceae and it would have made no difference to him, a compliment from Hooker is all any one wants.

I am not troubling myself about the outside non scientific magazines, if my book is well received by such men as Prof Gray, Eaton, Hooker &c - I will be perfectly satisfied.

I am waiting to hear from you regarding Polyposody; I expect to have another proof for you by the middle of the week. You have made me so familiar with your friend Mr Robinson, that you must give him my

compliments, and if you hear of any adverse criticisms please report, I am always ready to listen to advice especially if from a proper source.

Yours friend
John Williamson

Louisville Ky

April 1-

Mr Dear Mr Davenport

Your P.O. card was received
This afternoon. It is a pleasure indeed to me
to hear you talk about my etching. I try to
do the best I can. I think the beauty of these illustrations
depends more on the style of art. than in the mere
handling. I mean that with the etching needle
certain effects can be produced that lithography
or even wood engraving cannot express. It will be
a pleasure to me to give you a complete set, printed
direct from my plates, but you must wait. I
have just removed *Cheilanthes tomentosa* from the
acid bath. I am afraid I have not got it deep
enough but I will try it in the morning.
I will send you a proof in this letter,

Prof Eaton has also complimented me on my
work, I of course value Mr. Emerton's opinion.
I met Mr. Emerton at Indianapolis, American Ass. of
Science several years ago, of course he has forgot
me, I will have 59 plates, and 5 wood cuts,
It will be a regular picture book.

I want you to advise me in one point,
My descriptions are short, I never used a word more
than necessary, do you think that the plates should
be bound with the description and placed opposite
or have them placed altogether at the back of the
book, this is bothering me, I prefer to have the
descriptive matter and the illustrations mixed,
ask Mr. Emerton or some of your friends.

I want to have every thing first class, good paper
good printing, type & binding, I have made a
design for cover I may send you a sketch of it in my next
letter

Wm. Brewster

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. Sept 27 188

My Dear Davenport

Your postcard came
to hand this afternoon, I know every
minute you have is occupied and I
don't like to intrude on your time.
However I shall try and make it up some day.
I shall look for the Transcript notice
with interest, ~~and~~ if the public do not
encourage me in my work, it is not
that they were ignorant ^{about} of it, any
how, you and the rest of your friends
have done every thing in your power
to make it known, I was shown
a plaque yesterday that came from Paris
etched in the same way, and very cheap,
but I don't think you would have
given it house-room. The design
was evidently put on with a stencil
very coarse, but very bold and showing

I would not like to do such
work. I hope I will not have to.
I have written to Mr Shaw to say about
the tiles, I don't get any word from
their house. whether the goods are
all right or whether they are too dear,
or what, a new York letter received
yesterday, was quite encouraging but
whether the practical results will be
as favorable, time will only tell —

I will send you more circulars and
cards. Has our friend Hatch seen
the display yet? I will write to
some of my Architectural friends to
visit it. Your Transcript notice
may draw them out. The nights
are getting a little cooler now. I
must make a start on the
Verses. I have glanced over the
manuscript, that is all.

I got the Boston Herald with
notice of thanks. I don't hear from
Higginson, I hope he is well.

Sincerely yours Wm Williamson

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

K
Lexington, Ky. 1885

My Dear Davenport

I have just time to say one word. The box arrived all right this morning and I at once had the work examined and repacked and sent it to Washington. I sent a fair display of tiles. We will see what reports will come back. About the Plaque for Mr Hurd. I allow you to do whatever you please and about that Crump matter why don't lose any more time about it. I have done little towards the 6 new plaques. Have been very busy with some new tile patterns.

The Metal Worker the paper that Mr Atkinson represents came out in the strongest manner about the tiles. They had a long and elaborate review of the work. & very complimentary
Yours in Love J. W. Williamson

I will write a length in a few days

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. 1883

My Dear Davenport

I send you a package
containing plaques &c - our folks
send them away without pre-paying
Expressage please let me know the
amount I will remit

I hope they will reach you in time
The framed plaque was kindly
loaned by a gentleman here
I have sent Mr. Shaw a rather
set of Bronze tiles These I think
are very good.

I will write again & soon

I have one or two other pieces that
I may send but they are small

Yours &c -

John Williamson

Aug, 30/90

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Cincinnati, Ky. Aug. 28 - 1880

My Dear Darwin Port,

Yours of the 25th just come to
hand. I thank you very much for the interest you
have taken in this matter. I shall send to Mr
Shaw to-morrow morning two sets of Brass Tiles.

I have another pattern nearly ready and will send
it on just as soon as I can. These Tiles look very
handsome and the Philadelphia House who suggested
the idea to me are very well pleased with what we
have already sent them. I will send you on
Wednesday several plaques. small Cabinet door
a nice picture frame that I would like you to
place a photograph of Longfellow or Emerson
Emerson I prefer. This frame was partly an order
I sold one similar and this one is spoken for
but they may back out. I have made an Etched
sign ⁸/₁₀" x 20. (ART METAL WORKS
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.
CINCINNATI, KY.) with flowers and
the left hand corner and turning through the ferns springing from
lettering. I think I will make quite a creditable
display

A
BRONZE
NOTE

I think probably it would be better to
have the exhibits all-together. The Bronze
tiles will make a handsome display. I may
have a card printed drawing attention to these
tiles because they are something really new.

I am also getting up a new circular with
press notices I will mail a lot of you,
or to Mr Shaw, I am sorry I did not think
of this sooner so as to get in the Catalogue,
but I am glad to get in the Exposition,
Some of the plaques I have converted into card receivers,
I will have a lot of cards printed and placed in
the small plates, I have written to Mr Shaw
this evening. Good bye now

I must work to night later

your friend Wm Williamson

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. Oct 23 1855

My Dear Davenport

I send you three plaques
two with borders and one without, two of
they are etched pretty bold and the other one
not so deep. I find that the majority of folks
like them somewhat bold. You see I tried the
Trichomanes, you let me know what you
think of them. If Mr Discwell takes right
hold I will do well with him. You get his
ideas about subjects and styles & finish
probably he will push those things better than
the large jewelry houses. I received your
letter with the Boston Post notice. I have been
very fortunate. The New York Metal Worker I
received to day has a Boston letter that mentions
the etchings very nicely. What I am astonished
at the sales seem to hang fire. They must
be too high. I saw wrote to me every body liked
them but he would like to see them sitting.

put in a practical shape
What do you think the price of
Photography the Show case will be
I received the bundle of cards today
I will get up some more plaques
with out borders. I was wondering what
new ink paper your lady friend re-
presented. Good bye at present

Sincerely yours

Wm. Williamson

⁺_{five} can be handed to him.

I want Estes & Lauret to act as agents for Boston.

I exchanged 40 copies with Cattenio
for 4 complete sets of his termes
N. A. he has been supplying

The eastern Market to Jan

you noticed an advertisement in
give Eatons book. This was a
mutual agreement with

Cassino & myself. He promised to do the same for me in one of his forth coming numbers.

"We will see."

I sent a copy to the Naturalist
and Popular Science Monthly

I am willing to abide by their
criticisms.

I enclose you a notice cut from
the Phil Press. I sent it to this
paper at the request of Mr Redfield,

Comment is unnecessary.

I am in no hurry to decide about the W. E. Ferns
yet we had better think over it carefully. I would
like to see Mrs Robinsons book, I see Emerson has a book on it.

Louville 14 -

July. 12.-

My Dear Mr Davenport,

Your letter was received yesterday and your P.O. order to day.

"I thank you very much for the interest you have taken in this matter and will not be apt to forget it many a day" you have endeavored yourself to a few of my friends here who understand the situation.

I was very sorry to hear of your
being in poor health, you may be
thankful you are not lying
here just now, it is just roosting
alone. Ther in the shade, 100° ~~off~~
but business must be attended
too, I hope you will soon be
able to enjoy a trip to the woods.
It is only the Naturalist ~~that~~ ^{who} can enjoy
fully a County ramble, but when

one is in bad health, life has few enjoyments.

I will attend to the paper & printing of plates at once, and will do my best to give you good impressions. A few of the plates you will notice are spotted, this is caused by the acid biting through the wax when the etching was going on, this I cannot remedy now, but if ever I should do any more I will try and prevent that.

I am now drawing a flower piece will send a proof, it will be treated entirely from an artistic point.

I do not know just how my book will sell, but I am receiving quite a number of good notices.

I am getting up a circular with criticisms, will send you one.

I am waiting now on the Nation that may come to-morrow.

I wrote to Eaton about the *Aspidum Spiculatum*, but he has not answered yet. Prof Gray said that he would get Prof Eaton to receive my ferns, for the nature he many criticize that point there, I would like to get it for a week and visit the mountains of N.Y.

The American Ass. of Sci. meets in St. Louis this year it is just possible I may go there, partly on business & partly on pleasure, but to tell you the truth I would rather camp out for a week, live on "hog & hominy" Kentucky fare, bathe in the mountain stream, and forget the cares of this restless life. I am not sure whether Mr. Sargent's copy has been sent, I handed my subscription list to the publishers and they mailed the copies as they were ordered, if he has not got his copy the one you have

your modesty may persuade you to give
conspicuous specific characters to all your species.
You give a sort of a descriptive which is
very good, but scarcely enough."

Now Mr D. I do not know if my modesty
had much to do with it, all I aimed
at was to give a popular description
that would be understood with a little
thinking on the part of the student.

If I had it to do over again I do not
think I would change my plan.

I thought the illustrations would make up
for lack of descriptive terms. I would like
your opinion on that. Prof Eaton did not
allude to the *Speruloma* question I
suppose he forgot all about it. I received
the Boston Advertiser notice, yours I suppose
was too long for this. Well you know
Botanical Questions are only interesting to a
small minority of their readers. I am
perfectly satisfied. I send you by Circular
lots of inclosures. I got an advance
notice from Walter. I am going to push
the book a little more. I will send you
a few circulars with the sketches, if it is
not too much trouble for you. I do hope you are in better

your friend
John Bullman

Eaton

63 Market St

Lumwell 18

July 20th

My Dear Mr. Davenport

We have had a very trying
week especially on those who has a
weak constitution. The weather has
just been terrible, however
I must say I can stand it very
well & I have a good deal of out
door business.

I have managed to get your
set of plates printed. Printing I told
you once before was very difficult.
at least I find it so, but you know
I am not a printer. Therefore I had
just to learn. I printed about
a doz this evening after business.
& I think they are decidedly the best.
the ink was just in fine condition.
Now when you get those, I do not want
you to speak too hard about my
book, to tell you the truth there
is no comparison. When I say in my preface

that the plates are as sharp & well
defined as the original. I was not aware
then that I could get so good impressions
as I do now, and in fact I was
well pleased with the lithographic
impressions. I think they struck you
as creditable. The conclusion I have
come to is this, that with great
care and only printing 6 at a time
a good impression can be got ~~out~~
~~by~~ by the lithographic process, but
you never can get as good work
as printing direct from the plate.
There is a softness and delicacy
about the real etching that you
cannot get by any other art.
Just take the C. monument and see what
a wood engraver would make out of it.
The tall friend has a mistiness about
it that would be difficult to get
except by the etching needle.
You must excuse me Mr. Davenport
but I would like to say one word
more, you have observed that I
have treated some ferns very differently

from others. You mentioned that in one of
your criticisms, but this point is not
so observable until you have the
complete set altogether. I noticed this
of course when I was doing the work,
but I was not so impressed with it
until I commenced to print and
examine. A gentleman who had
received the Boston Transcript (and who
is a connoisseur in art matters &
who has a very fine collection) called
to see me one evening this week.
I was then printing when he called.
He was very enthusiastic about the
work. he pronounced the B. ferns
and the Magnificent ferns of Woods
the best of the series.

If I had kept the most of them in the
acid 10 minutes longer they would have
been improved. You must think them a
very personal letter, I will promise not
to say so much about my work again.

I had a letter from Prof. Eaton
yesterday he speaks in a kindly
way and thinks I have carried out
faithfully what I set out to do.
He also says, "I could have wished that

Louisville Ky. — — —

My Dear Mr Davenport

I leave to-morrow for
the mountains of Ky. I expect to have a pleasant time,
but I am going alone, an artist friend expected
to go but could not get for another week
but my business arrangements were so that
I must go at once or not at all.

I received your card this afternoon conveying the sad
tidings that you had lost your little boy,
I sympathize with you Mr Davenport. I feel
that I know you intimately and am interested
in all your affairs, I have been exceedingly fortunate
in my family relations, I live with my mother
one only son and unmarried, and probably will
remain so, This does not however prevent me
from becoming one of your warmest friends in your
distress. Science has its charms for us all, Nature & Art
has thousands of devoted worshippers, but to me the
highest phase of existence is when the beat of
two hearts will be in perfect harmony, though thousands
of miles away. This is the feeling your card conveyed

to me this afternoon. I had also a postal card
from Mr Schmidt to day. he said he had called of
Mr Schmidt is a true gentleman. I wrote him
your misfortune. I would like you to
meet him. He is a German.

I may write to you again from the
mountains I will have little to do in
the evenings. I trust Mr Davenport
you will soon be well yourself. and
believe me to be your True and
Sincere Friend

John Williams

I earnestly hope ^{for} Davenport
your health in improving
but such weather as we have
been having is unfavorable
for those who are not in
good health.

I believe I mentioned I
mentioned in my last letter
I would send some circulars
with my Etchings,
but I forgot all about
it.

Hoping to hear from you
soon again -

I remain Sincerely
Yours
John W. Williams

Lansville N.Y.

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your Postal card came to hand to
day. I have been so busy in the
workshop for a week past that I
had no time to go to the post office.
I now mail Mr Hazen's copy.

I thought he would have got
the extra one you had, but
you say you have disposed of
it. The money will be sent

to me now, but no hurry.
About that advertisement notice
do not trouble yourself, I am
satisfied I have got through
the mill pretty well.

I will look for a season
in The Naurelist American
Journ of Sci & Art and Gardener

Monthly for Aug. —

By the way have you had a
private talk with Prof. Gay
yet, I would like to get his
candid opinion,

Mr Walker told me he would
not be in Boston for about two
weeks when I saw him, he will
turn up. I am not very well
acquainted with him, met him
a Phil two years ago, thought
it a good opportunity to send
plate.

I take the liberty now to
introduce to you Mr Frank
P. Schmidt of this city
who will hand you the set
of Etchings, Mr Schmidt is
a special friend of mine
I consider him a worthy gentleman
a man of broad culture.
His boys have been attending

The School of Technology
in Boston. Mr Schmidt is
on his way to Block Island
to join his family.

If any of the prints are not
exactly up to the mark just
let me know & I will try and
get better impressions.

I wrote you last Saturday
about the difficulty of printing,
but with perseverance I
can manage it.

The weather has been too
warm to do any thing
I am going to try & get
away for a week to the
Mountains of N. I would
enjoy it I have been hard
at work for two years now
I scarcely had a day, I went
to the Centennial & that was
hard enough work

Louisville Ky.

Feb 4 1878

Geo. E. Davenport Esq

Dear Sir

I received your ps-15. card to day
and will send you what *Bolozhiana*
I have next week. I have not etched
any of the species of this genus yet.
Therefore you will require to return them
but I will let you know when I write
again. I have none of the small
species. They are not found here.

I send you an Etching of *Asplenium*
Brookleyi. The plant was given to me
by Prof H. Assey of Lafayette Ind.

The Etching of *Cystopteris fragilis*, and *Glechomites*
longuicosa are printed direct from my plate.

I am very busy writing up descriptive matters
and will have no leisure time until May.
I received Mr. Larson letter to day from
John P. Norton &c

If my business will admit next summer
I will get some good plants for you

Yours Respectfully

John H. Williams

Sp. A. m. 1875

63 Market street
Saugusville N.Y.
Feb 13 /76

Mr. Davenport

Dear Sir

I send you by this mail all
the Botrychium I have. I have been
scattered too much in my botanical studies heretofore,
but I now intend to confine myself to ferns and ^{will} keep ~~also~~ making a picture of
every one I get hold of. Next summer
I will not fail to send you every thing
that we have in our woods, that is of course
in your special study. I have not figured
any Botrychium yet therefore if it is not
too much trouble for you send them
back in two or three weeks. That will be

Plenty of time, I do not take very long
to make my etchings, I am busy with
my descriptive matter, I will have an essay
on Structure with illustrations one of fertility
also illustrated. I have made a very good ^{drawing}
drawing of the Prothallus with young fern
do you ~~work~~ much with the microscope —
I am a little bothered about my classification
I wrote to Prof Eaton but have not heard from
him yet, I ~~am~~ not sure why. Phycoplasts
should be taken out of Polypodiaceae, and put
on account of Polypodiaceae being articulated to
the root stock, I also send you ~~a~~ specimens
of Botrychium Alpinum, and Hymenophyllum
I collected in Scotland Enclosed find two
dollars for two copies of your Botrychium
monograph. Your Resps. John Williams.

63 Market St

Louisville

March 3 1878

My Dear Mr Davenport,

I have been trying to get a
chance to write you for several days,
but could not get time.

If you could spare me the following
specimens I would be much obliged
and if you desire I will return them
as soon as I catch them,

Chelanthus vertic. Sewarty. c. tomentosus. Link

Aspidium spinulosum Sewarty

A. Goldianum. I had some beautiful

specimens of this but gave
them all away. I thought
I had more. —

Botrychium. what you can spare.

Any remarks on this Genus will be appreciated
and will be credited.

If any of your friends want a good living
specimen of *Polypodium inaequalis* I can send it
at once.

Yours Truly,

John Williamson

P. S. Since writing the above I have just
received plenty of *Aspidium Goldiana*

so leave that plant out

JW

Louisville Ky

March 20 1848

Dear Mr Davenport

I send you two of
The last etchings I have made.

The *C. bestula* was drawn partly from your plant
and partly from a specimen Mr Martindale sent
me and from the form I had myself.

I think I have a pretty characteristic
illustration. I tried to show the hairy
appearance. The *Dicksonia* etching is from
a plant in my own collection. I thought best
to give a piece of a frond full size.
These are printed directly from my plate, and not
transferred to stone like the (*Trichomanes*)

My ms is in the printer's hands and progressing very
nicely. Yours Resp- Wm Williamson, ^{I will not forget to send}
your specimen just as soon
as I am done. Wm.

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. April 12 1878

H
Dear Mr. Davenport,

I have time to write you a few lines, your last was received. The difference between my etch plates & those lithographed is this, my style of drawing & etching is as old as Rembrandt. The lithographic process is something new to me, but very simple.

A transfer is made direct from my metal plate (and not from a print as some suppose.) The paper that is used for this purpose is composed of a number of ingredients with a large percentage of starch. This transfer after being removed from my plate has just the appearance of one of my regular etchings. The transfer ink is composed largely of a greasy nature. This transfer is then placed on the lithographic stone. This stone has a great affinity for grease. The greasy ink already referred to takes a firm hold to the stone. The paper and starch is dissolved with water leaving the ink sticking fast to the stone. The stone is next washed in a weak solution of acid that cleans the stone perfectly but does not harm the ink.

In this process then the impression is printed from a raised line. in my etching it is printed from a sunk line

For all practical purposes, at least for my work
the one is just as good as ^{the} other, every line I give is
reproduced, but it may not be so bold, etc.

Of course this would not be tolerated in high art
although some books have been illustrated this way.
Mrs Eliza Greatoroux, Etching in Colorado, is printed
by the lithographic process,

It is expensive to print direct from the plate
but I may tell you that there is no comparison as
regards the real value of the work, an art critic
would scarcely thank you for a transfer, when he usually
values the genuine etching. It will be a pleasure to me
to present to you a complete set, just as soon as I
get over my work. I will make up probably 1/2 of
set for my friends, I may send one to Prof. Gray, Prof.
Eaton, two friends here that are helping me, and from
I am sorry to inform you that by some mechanical
difficulty I will require to place the plates in the back
of my book. I will have Lithomons, as pointers piece
Structure & Vertebrate plates, with the text, but the
rest are doomed to go to the rear. The descriptions
of course ^{as} are not uniform in length as "Her Majesty's & San-deers"
that is I say a great deal more about Polygodon
unicorn than I do about P. bulgar, &c.

The printer said he could not set them in right, sometimes
two lines would come together, &c. You see I will
have to mangle. I think they ought to set round it
some way, however I will have every thing framed & marked up.

I will have the Plate numbered, and named with both Screen type & common name. The descriptions will also be numbered ~~with~~ correspondingly,

I enclose you the Botrychium virginicum.

Should this be B. virginianum?

Mr. Drayton - What name do you attach to Mr. D. H. Pratt's Botrychium on Mr. John Robinson's Check List on ^{Naturalist} American, vol. IX, Page 417.

I am working up your notes on Botrychium -

This sketch I may say is printed in the Journal. The paper was a little too damp.

The letter is from Mr. Drayton.
I hope you will understand me.

Yours
Geo. W. Allen

OFFICE OF

JOHN WILLIAMSON & CO.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. April 29 1875

Dear Mr Davenport.

I was very glad to hear that Mr Robinson & yourself were pleased with the transfer. The st. punctation I thought rather a poor piece of work. The Cam flowers, May, — is I think the most artistic (if I would be allowed to apply such a term to this work,) in the group. I will send you another transfer of 12 in a few days. I will make no remarks about them, as it is not my business to criticize. You see I will have a pretty good margin, it will be impossible to make the margin any broader on a/c. of the transfer. They put 12 on a stone. I suppose you see what I mean. Now Mr Davenport I would like to associate your name with my book in a permanent way, and if you have no objections will you fill up the blank label etched on P. bulgare, giving place & habitat. (Elev. by G. E. Davenport, over hanging cliffs & a G. C.) This plate I have chosen to illustrate collecting & prospecting for Herbarium. I have to put some name there & I prefer yours to any other.

I may tell you your encouraging letters
have done me more good than you can imagine.
I have started the most of my plates over again.
The last etching I have made were so far ahead of
my first one that I was ashamed of them,
I enclose you an extract from one of our
city papers yesterday, the writer is a good
critic on art subjects, and has a good collection
of engravings, &c.

I have attempted something new in the engraving
the plant I have in my leucanthemum case, and it is doing
splendid. I tried to express the living plant
growing among the moss. The moss foreground
is not definite enough I will bite it over
to night, and send you another proof along
with the transfer,

By the way I think it would be a good
plan for me to send the proof transfer and
if it is not to much trouble for you to
check it, and return it, I will then send
you another perfect one, it may be all
right if so keep it, by I have no one to
consult here on nomenclature, I have a good
friend in Dr. E. L. Cresser who is assisting me in making
up the book, but I have to trust to my self on scientific
points, I only wish I was nearer you.

Yours Respo. Wm. Williamson,

Lansdowne 19

June 10 1845

Dear Mr. Lumsden

I am going to ask your
forgiveness here, I find my book will not
be out for several days yet. The printer in the book
told me this morning that he had a different job
all the sheets can't be cut and the plate
put in the press. I told him to
make good work, supposing it had been a few
days longer. I will send you a copy to
show you it is partly bound, it is a splendid
copy as you can handle it just as you please,
you will notice that it contains a drawing of
your own hand is going away.
all such parts will of course be corrected.
I was thinking that you should see the book and
that you would be pleased to receive it. If it is not
out of place I should like to make a few notes
drawing your attention to some points.

The last year I have considered the point given, which
I have done, but it is scarcely noticed (the manner
contraction) I have been working all kinds of roots
this summer and among them I dug out a slip
root of Plum. I find the old and decayed slip
at long intervals and the root was not so long
as I had said. It would of course be impossible
to represent the root in such a small space

drawing. I had a single page, I did not like it and afterwards replaced with the one present. There is nothing in my description that will interest you. I have tried to be plain. As I hope you are the most interesting. You may have some remarks to make on classification, and my Key & figures, but these are merely compilations. May I ask you to write briefly & copy any thing from him.

The Index I know you will like. My friend Dr. Green is responsible for the part of matter. & I think he deserves credit for it. I will request help. You can show the copy to a few of your friends, but I hardly think it would be advisable to show it to any but a select, where more means for the work than to show.

The cover will be stamped with engraved design. The Index will be ~~engraved~~

In consequence I think I had better send you the copies you speak about. You can lend them to the Transcript & Advertiser. I will send to the Librarian, and any other you designate. I believe in a generous liberality with the press. I send you the days come Journal, with a review. They had a copy such as I send you. The cover design I will enclose in the book.

When we receive a Boston paper with notice -

Yours sincerely John W. Brown

63 Market St. Longview
May - 21 / 00

Dear Mr. Laneport.

Your letter I received yesterday
and noted your criticisms. 1, 2 & 3. I have been looking
a little about the Phryganina. I have a good specimen of
Phryganina that I brought from Central, and it looks
very much like the illustration I sent you but much smaller.
I have not the specimen I made my sketch from. It was a
very slight I collected this season. The general appearance
is different from your one, made me think it was
the *Phryganina*. Will you send me a characteristic
specimen of the same. I will return it. I have some
magnificent specimens of what I call the *Phryganina*
lower province straight & very broad - I should like
of course to be correct in this and fortunately did not
have my doubts, except a few specimens. If you send me
a specimen of *Phryganina* I will sketch it. & if I am
mistaken in my specimen we can change the name
very easily. H.B. 2 if you noticed - & I have
attached to. I send you another series of 12 - 2
have out there up. But that makes no difference.
By some mismanagement the Lithographer has
made several errors, that can be remedied &
as regards the plates they are hardly as good as the
last I sent you. The *Phryganina* - *Junonia* did not
turn out as well as I anticipated. The microscopic
view of *Spargania* I intended to show the field of the

manuscript, it is not very well done, but if it was
printed a little darker it would improve it.

3 The A. Cristatatus I think is the best, but you
make your own criticisms on word on the structure
of Plate. Fig. 1 is from earlier. That of Plate adjacent
it is bold, and I think a good copy, but the contrast
is very great between the two, and the other cut between
the plate looks too heavy, not balanced properly -
but we must not go on too much. The fault
is I do not ^{make} an identity but what I would like
to make it over again. I always notice something
wrong - I send you the first 12 - it is too late
to change them now. I have now printed.

but if you should notice any errors please report,
Mr. Davenport keeps hold of every thing I send you
until I order otherwise, a few plates will not
hurt you for your kindness - I also
send you the P. vulgaris, you seemed to admire it
I do not like it very well -

By the way, Mr. Davenport, have your own objections of me
using your plates in connection, I have only 59 plates
and I would like to have 60 - it will just be as cheap for
me to have the number. I thought I would stick your
plate and of course give both yourself & Mr. Davenport
credit, I will copy them the fig. carefully. The plates will
be smaller but the figs same size, please let me know.

Yours truly, John Williamson

I have just finished, distribution now do you like it, from your experience
I can tell you the only thing of which I am not sure.

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*The paper will be tented just
the same as the other*

FERNS OF KENTUCKY

WITH .

SIXTY FULL-PAGE ETCHINGS AND SIX WOOD CUTS,
DRAWN BY THE AUTHOR,

ILLUSTRATING

STRUCTURE, FERTILIZATION, CLASSIFICATION,
GENERA, AND SPECIES.

BY JOHN WILLIAMSON.

LOUISVILLE, KY.:
PRINTED BY JOHN P. MORTON & CO., 156 AND 158 WEST MAIN ST.
1878.

PREFACE.

The want of a popular hand-book on our native ferns induced the author to issue the present work. The great expense of getting up the illustrations no doubt prevented publishers from such an undertaking. The beautiful monograph of the Ferns of North America, by Professor D. C. Eaton, of Yale College, now in course of publication, will, when it is completed, form a most valuable contribution to Botanical Science. The only aim of the present volume, however, is merely to be a guide to the amateur fern-gatherer, a book that can be carried in the pocket, and referred to at any time, whether in the woods or in the study. Pages are left blank so as to enable the student to make notes regarding the habitat and locality of ferns and flowering plants.

The works of Riddell, Short, Clapp, and others who have gone over probably the same ground, are scattered throughout the various periodicals published at that time. They are very difficult to get at, and entirely out of the reach of the amateur botanist. These early workers made no attempt to illustrate, sometimes mentioning the county where the specimens were found, seldom the exact locality.

All their localities have been credited as far as could be ascertained with accuracy. In McMurtrie's History of Louisville, he gives *Scolopendrium officinarum* (Swartz), as found near Louisville, Ky. This is certainly doubtful.

The present work is not so full in localities as it ought to be, and it is the earnest desire of the author that local collectors should communicate with him regarding this matter, noting carefully the time and the place of finding any plant described in these pages—whether on the higher ranges; whether on the declivities, or in the valleys, in the damp, rich woods, or along the banks of streams; whether on trees, or overhanging rocks; whether the rocks are sandstone, limestone, or of igneous formation. Notes can not be too careful or minute.

This is merely a beginning of what can be accomplished with the aid of local collectors. We hope in a little time to be able to determine the locality and range of every species and variety indigenous to the State.

I now take this opportunity to thank my botanical friends for the kind assistance they have given me in this work—Mr. J. C. Martindale, of Camden, New Jersey, Mr. John H. Redfield, of Philadelphia, Prof. D. C. Eaton, of Yale College, Prof. Coulter, of Hanover College, Indiana, Prof. Hussey, of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., Mr. Chas. E. Faxon, and Mr. G. E. Davenport, of Boston. I am especially indebted to Mr. Davenport for his valuable hints regarding the nomenclature and for criticisms on the illustrations.

PREFACE.

v

I am also specially indebted to my friend Dr. E. S. Crosier, of this city, who has taken a great interest in the work since its beginning, for valuable assistance in the preparation of the text. Most of the descriptions have been carefully revised by him, a courtesy I greatly appreciate.

J. W.

LOUISVILLE, KY., MAY 16, 1878.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS are etched on metal plates, afterward transferred to lithographic stone, thus enabling the work to be published at a much cheaper price than if the copies were printed direct from the plates. They were printed by the Louisville Lithographic Company, who are to be thanked for the interest they have taken in the matter, in getting clear and sharp impressions, in every respect as well done as if they had been printed direct.

63. Market St

Lonsville Ky

May 25 1888

B

My Dear Mr. Davenport,

I have read my last proof and finished my last etching of the Ferns of Kentucky, and I just sell as if I had nothing to do. I have worked pretty hard and I am glad I am done, but to tell you the truth I have enjoyed it, if my readers will only get as much pleasure out of it as I have I will be satisfied.

Now about your letter I received yesterday, In the first place (as my old preacher used to say) "The names as your remarks are a little weak, I had the same objection to them ^{myself}". They were engraved by the lithographer, but I have got used to them & rather like them, I think they are very pretty and carefully made. What ought to strike you first is the picture the name ought to be subordinate.

Now about the etchings I am like you, I want a good strong print, I am rather inclined to stamp the fault of some of the prints being weak and faint like lies in the etching. This is a peculiar art. The acid must be of a certain temperment, every line you make must be of a certain strength and there are so many things to watch that nothing but close study & long experience will enable you to accomplish any work of value, any work that I will undertake in the future must be careful in every respect. Now about the *P. hexagonifera*, I am satisfied that you are correct and the species *P. polypodoides* is rare in Ky.

I have etched the specimen you sent me, and made a note regarding the similarity of the two species, I am thinking there is enough to justify in making two species.

I intend to watch this point closely this summer. Your New England specimen looks very much like the plant I brought from Scotland. I thank you for drawing my attention to this. You know I want to have as few errors as possible.

You thought my *A. acrostichoides* was not very good. This is a very characteristic form of this fern in our ^{woods} ~~work~~, moist and shady. I thought I had managed that pretty well. The stem I think is good.

Now Mr. Donnell I find no fault with your criticisms. I am trying to place myself in a position to criticize myself. By ignoring my inadequacy, I am for the Sporoclosum. This plant has given me a good deal of trouble, well not trouble but thought. I have quite a number of specimens collected in the wood on close examination I could not get them to agree with the typical specimen you sent me. I selected what I thought was a good characteristic specimen of var. *intermedium*. In such a work as I was aiming at it was impossible for me to go into this subject in all its details. What I would like to do would be to get up a series of etchings of this fern in all its stages and all its varieties, giving probably magnified views of all the important points. This of course will take some time, but whatever is done let it be done well.

I suppose The Saturday Review would say this was
"Quixotic" I was troubled about the naming of this
species, and I am afraid it is too late to change it -
now, ~~this~~ ^{matter} had been stereotyped and to make a change
would have cost me considerable. I have made
~~some~~ notes on this point in my description. That I
think will be satisfactory. Dr. Crosse who has
been a great assistance to me, discussed this question
fully well, I will drop a note to Eaton however
regarding this matter & inform you what he says.
You ask about the proofs I send you of my etching.
The prints I send you in my letter are prints direct from
my plate you have been getting the very first print.
The other prints on tinted paper with the names are
the transfers, I like the transfers just as well & in
fact a little better than my own printing.

To be able to print etchings well from the plate one
must have long practice, it is very difficult, it is more
difficult to me to get a good print than to etch,
and it is merely mechanical. ^{members of the} The New York Etching
Club has to send their work to Paris to get printed,
this is rather a curious statement, but I have seen
for it. I will leave you too much to go into all the details,
Mrs. W. Davenport I believe I have answered all your
questions, I enclose you the Little Page, and Preface
you must not say one word about my preface, I have
credited all my friends and I have done it with a
heartly good will and for yourself Mrs. Davenport I shall

Not forget your kindness, I am only very I did not
know you sooner,
I will mail you on Monday evening, I of my
plates including your permission, I am afraid I
have not made as good a piece of work as I
could have wished, an outline drawing in etching looks
little ragged, I was anxious to get them done
and last night I felt tired and somewhat weary
and, The folks here are getting weary waiting on my
book, the fair season is advancing, and there is very
little time to lose, and if the I4 is all right please just
send me a telegraph of 10 words. I enclose the money,
you have been at considerable expense on my acc.
I will see you are remunerated,
I suppose I ought to have a pretty fair sale for
my book in Boston, Estes & Lauriat has received a
sample copy, and several other publishing houses,
Cassier takes 10 copies in exchange for 4 copies
of his Ferns of N.Y., I want you to send me
notices of the Reviews favorable or otherwise,
I may send a copy to Hooker, and also to the
Portfolio, and etching Journal, London,
By the way have you seen Prof Gray, he has charge
of the Nation I believe, however I do not want you
to prejudice any one in writing a review, but am willing to
allow it to go out on its merits, but you know Kentucky is
a poor place for any good to come ad off, I am asked my
opinion of Plate 12. illustrations ferns, Before I received your letter I

Louisville Ky.

Aug 5 1888

My Dear Friend Davenport

I received a postal card from Mr Schmitt this mornig. He writes me he called at your office 48 & Hamilton Place on Saturday the 27 Ult. to deliver the Etchings, but found you absent, he therefore did not leave them but said he would be in Boston soon again. I have written him to mail them to you. Mr Schmitt is now at Black Island with his family. This place is quite a resort for Louisville people. I have a number of friends there. Two more of my most intimate friends leave this week and I very near made up my mind to go along, but I cannot get away from my business long enough, I therefore will content myself with a trip to the mountains of Kentucky with a few of my friends. Mr Cooper, who is not in very good health leaves on Saturday for Black Island.

I should like very much for you to meet him
He may call but it is hardly probable.

The most of my friends here are Eastern people
They drifted West to get on, but the getting
on is questionable. Has Walker called yet
if not just drop him a card or if not too
far out of your way see him & get the plate. His
address is A. Walker care of Holbrook & Porter
14 High St, Now a little Fern talk,

I suppose you read Prof Gray notice of my book in
American Jour of Sci & Art. I was astonished he preferred
the wood cut to the etchings, it is true they are
clearer but they want softness. However his notice
was kindly and I liked it. I am very anxious to
see Mr Robinson's book. I ordered it from Cassin
about a week ago, in fact it was 10 days ago
It will come along I suppose, but I should
have liked to exchange with Mr Robinson

I have received parts 617 of Eaton's Ferns,
of N.Y. and to tell you the truth I am
not satisfied with the work,

Perhaps I am getting poor eyes. Now is it that
the plates are printed on paper fully 1/2 inch

larger than the text, when the book comes to be
bound in trimming the name of the fern will be
cut off or the point of the fern will be cut
at the top edge. I refer you to plates 16, & 20—
A gentleman I got it for, almost refused to take it
on that ~~acc-~~ Now about the Illustrations,

Plate 16 is good, in fact what I object to is trying
to give an idea of a plant from a miniature
picture, you cannot do it, and I think the
sooner Prof Eaton or Mr & Mrs Eaton see this point
the better it will be for the book. In plate 19
Blechnum an example of this reducing process
is given, how what does it convey to the mind
its true a small section is given full size, but
with such a large page and such a beautiful
fern a fine picture ought to have been the
result. 16 as I have said is first rate so is
Adiantum but no texture. The Botrychium I
think are possible but he might have succeeded
in getting a more graceful form out of B. ternatum
if the B. dissection given characteristic of your plant.
I made my drawing exactly as we have it here.
As a work of art I think the Phlegmaria. The

poorest thing in the number. This is a favorite
fern of mine. it grows very plentiful in
Scotland & I have some beautiful specimens.
The green is a yellowish tint, and the plant
when growing has a drooping appearance.
I have made a drawing of this fern I will send
it in a day or two. What in the world did he bend
or rather fold that stem in such a manner
you lose the character of its being long. in fact
it is an eyesore to me every time I look at it.
The whole drawing is a miserable little figure
whose outline would make a pretty good
geometrical form.

You may think I am a little hard on the Artist
but when a man gives himself out as an Artist
he ought to be criticised from that point of view.
You may say, take the beam out of your own eye
before you take the mote out of thy brother's, very true,
but when we consider that I had to do the whole work
almost single handed and make so many illustrations, it
could hardly be expected that they all could be first
rate, and considering the page room Mr & meyer
has he ought to at least have them lying gracefully
on his page. This is my humble opinion of this work.
Some of the plates are very fine others again are very poor.

I was well pleased to see that Prof Eaton, acknowledged your merits in his
Botanical articles. Yours sincerely John Willard

Lanesville Ky

Nov. 10 1878

My Dear French Laneyport

I have had a very busy week
I had no time to answer your letter sooner,

I have put up a package of dry plants, I hope you
will like them. I send you, *A. Bradleyi*, *C. pennsylvanica*,
A. Montanum, *Casaphyscus*, *Chenanthus scabell.*, *Polygala* ^{incana} ~~latifolia~~,
Eriogonum fasciculatum, and *Lycopodium puberulum*,
I wanted you to see a specimen of the climbing fern from this
region. In my P.O. card a few days ago I told you I had succeeded
in getting the *Eriogonum*. I had never found it before and I
can tell you it was a greater pleasure for me when I saw it.
I took a short run up to Rockcastle Co. thinking I might probably
get it. I knew it was found about 30 miles from this place
in Laurel Co. The country is of the same nature and reasoning on
general principles it ought to be found there.
After examining every likely place I had almost concluded to give
up the search. I was on a pretty high range of hills, but the
rock were ~~conspicuous~~ and damp, but not dripping. I suspected
a larger and darker looking cave than the rest, I was some little

distance from it, but resolved to give it another trial,
and on drawing near to the entrance of the cave, I
noticed something green hanging from the roof. on careful
examination I found it to be my long sought Trichomanes.
There were very fine specimens, and not very good at that
but I had found this fern, and I have no doubt but
what it is plentiful in this neighborhood, I had only one
day, and night was coming on so I had to give up the
search, but next season I will be sure to give this
place a thorough exploration, I also found the A. Bradleyi,
Montanum & pinnatifidum were also common, the Bradleyi was
a little different from what I found in Estill Co. that is, the
general character of the plant partook a little of the form of
Montanum. I only got about 12 dry plants, and they were all small.
The Estill Co. specimens, at least some of them had the appearance of
eburneum now in Estill Co. the probably ferns associated
with Bradleyi were the eburneum and pinnatifidum,
while in Rockcastle Co. the I did not find a single plant
of the eburneum, but plenty of Montanum & pinnatifidum,
there probably is nothing in this, but I think it is well
to make these notes. I enclose you in the package, a
small specimen I found among my Estill Co. plants
it is parvulum, or only a small eburneum, I confess!

was terribly mixed, It seems to me it has the
character you claim for parvulum pennine slightly stalked,
However I will leave you to decide, I received your
spinalium but have had no time yet to read it carefully,
All the specimens I have examined have their involucre
ciliate, If I can get all points you speak off I will
make a series of sketches, but more about that again
now a few words about the Fern book, I have little
more to say than what I suggested some time ago
I may tell you however that I received a very encouraging
letter from Mr. Watt, in Montreal Co. without having
any correspondence with Mr. Watt, except my sending a
circular occasionally, He writes, "I have received
circulars announcing your excellent little book on
Ferns &c. I hope you may be encouraged to
extend the work so as to include the whole Fern
flora of Northern N. A. in which event please draw
on me for specimens of our rarer northern forms"

This I think is a good sign,
When you get a little spare time give me your
views, In your last letter you spoke about Mrs
Cooper of Santa-Barbara, Do you think she
entertained the idea seriously about using my book

as a text book for the Santa-Barbara College
I tried to be as careful with my classification &
lay as I could, I was sorry I did not say more
about fertilization,

I suppose I shall hear from Mrs Cooper on the
subject. I have never heard from her since I
sent her a copy. If I should make arrangements
with her I will let you know,

Who is Miss Owens, I believe that is the name, she has
quite a long review of Mr Robinsons book & my own, in the
Boston Literary World.

I suppose Mr Richards poem has fallen through
she has not written to me any further.

Give my compliments to Mrs Davenport
Probably you are right about true happiness, of course
I dont know,

My friend Mr Schmidt has a son in Boston, he made
his first appearance on the stage last week, did you
notice any thing about it, the professor is the boys own
choosing. I hope he may succeed, but the path is strewn with
slabs of Thurns, do you think you can read this,
Your friend John Williams

Louisville Ky

Dec 5 1886

My Dear Mr Davenport

You see my friend I just keep on writing. Carlyle says, Speech is Silence but Silence is Golden. My motto is when one has anything to say let him say it, with all his might, Now you need not expect any great revelations from this prelude, I have simply a plant here that I can't make out,

Prof Wildbayer of this state, sent me some time ago at the ferns he collected when on the Geological Survey of this state in 1886. The plants were collected principally at Cumberland Gap. He wanted me to look over the and name them, that ~~let~~ if any were wrong. They were very poorly dried, and glued down on the regular sized paper. Among the *A. & E. nemorosus*, I noticed a small frond of the *Parvula*, that I send, On the *Charactanthus* paper, I noticed two fronds very different from the rest, *C. vestita*. I at once removed them from the paper moistened them in hot water and spread them out the best way I could. I saw at once they were not *C. vestita*, but they were new to me. I also send you these two fronds one sterile & one fertile. I need not describe them, but I will give you my opinion. I decolorized a specimen of both fronds, and have made drawings of same. The fructification looked very much

Cheilanthes & *Pellaea*. It is certainly not a *Platanus*, neither
allonius. The vening is characteristic of *Pellaea* - and the
stiff woody stem and also the marginal inclusion
looks very much like that genus. But it also has several
a *Cheilanthes* look about it. That I am inclined to
place it in that genus. In the small segment I placed under
the microscope the inclusion, was notched, but that part took
of the form of the lobe. I have before me *Cheilanthes*
californica sent to me by Mrs Cooper. There is some similarity
between the two plants, but I give it up.

I wrote to Wildenberger if he found the plant at
the place designated on the paper, he said he must
have done so, as they were all collected together, but if he
hadn't done so, I wondered he had not observed this before,
when the plant was fresh, but I suppose he was hurried an
little time to study in a campaign of the kind.
I have not had time to make a natural sized drawing of the fern
I therefore want you to return it as soon as you make it out. I
suppose you know it. I have been so busy I have not had time
to go over your *Spiculorum* article. I have read it of course, but I
want to get a number of my specimens and follow you all the way
through if I differ in my opinion I will let you know.
I want to ask you confidentially about Cassino, as a business
man, is he perfectly reliable. He seems very anxious to
sell my book but he is a great fellow for exchange -
I told him I did not want to exchange any more. I
sent him 40 copies when the book was published.

in exchange for 4 complete sets of Eators, This I
suppose was all right, He now wants to sell the
books on Commission and has offered to advertise the
Sims of Kentucky, along with Prof. Eators. & Prof. Robinsons
book, This I think also is a fair bargain. Some time or
other in my correspondence with him I have not got
that confidence in him that is desirable between businessmen,
and especially doing a commission business, he appears always
to be afraid he is going to get cheated. All I want to know
from you is this, (and as you have better means of judging
than I have) how he is respected among scientific men
as well as business circles, I have no hesitancy in send-
him \$50 or 100 copies, if I thought every thing would be
all right, I am sorry to bother you with the feature
of my undertaking. This is what is generally termed the
Broad Hunter's part, Compliments to Mrs. D. & all the family
Your true friend John Williams

Know what is for
By the way, what price is *Cooker's Baker*
Synopsis *Helicium*. Prof Robinson - says \$4.00
If you know where I could pick up one
cheap I would get it.

In reference to that *Cheranth. alabamensis*
I would like to be perfectly sure. The
more I study it the more I think it is
a *Pellaea*, and if you say it is *The Pellaea*
of Baker, I really think he is correct.
I am in no special hurry but of course
in the next addition I want it to be full.
Weldberger did not know the difference between
this and *C. vestita*, I think however he will
be a valuable fellow to cultivate, because
he goes for on my tramps.

I was surprised when you told me
that a Mr Underwood of New York State
has a fern book under way,
was it illustrated. I suppose he has caught
the fever of authorship. Probably he thinks
there is money in it, well let him try.
I was asked some years ago to join a botanical
friend here in getting up a fern book, he
was to do the descriptive part, and I was to
make the illustrations. When I tell you candidly
all he knew about ferns dated since he made my
acquaintance. You must imagine I was astonished.
Just the old story about fools. Yours sincere friend
Wm Robinson

Louisville Ky
Dec 22 1878

My Dear Friend

I believe I am in
your debt two letters and one P.O.
and, I am anxious to see your catalogue.
Louisville is a poor place to sell
botanical catalogues, however you
my count on one, that is sure,
while you are sending you may put up
1/2 a day I will do what I can. I will
remitt just as soon as I sell them.
I thank you for the few points about
Cassins. I do not know how I have come to
have such a poor opinion of him, the fact is
I think he did not care about the "ferns of
Kentucky" When I commenced this work
I had no more idea, that he or Eaton
had the subject under consideration of
publishing a fern book than I have of

writing a Look on mosses or any thing
else, I have often wondered why some
one did not attempt a good popular
Look, I was well on with my work
when I saw Cassini's announcement
I was then wondering whether to stop or
not, I did not send any copies on
Commission I gave him a good discount
for cash, if he wants them he can get
them but I am not particular, The book
is selling slowly, you have observed
the adult I gave him in my book, this was
given in exchange for an adult of my
book, but the adult has never appeared
I have asked several times about this
he says it will appear in the near
future in "Science News", we will
see, I have the last number
and read an article on Botryctes
by your friend John Robinson,
I am trying to make something out of
the little aspleniums, I am making drawings

of the spore, the prothallium and the younger
forms of all the species, including,
Pinnatifidus, *Brachyotum*, *Choneum*, *Mentzelia*,
Parnassium, and *Camptopseus*, probably
I mentioned them to you before, if I
did excuse me, I am glad to know
you spoke about my additions to Dr Gray,
I have been trying to send Dr Gray a
few of my etchings from the plates, but
printing is a little troublesome and I
have so little time, I was astonished to
hear him say in American Jour. Sci. Nat.
that he liked the wood cuts of classifications
to the etchings, it is true they are darker &
perhaps clearer but if I may express
myself they are very wooden
I would like to take a trip East
and meet all you persons, I certainly
will do it sometime, but not yet,
I see in Science News an adst for a
Botanical artist, I am very engrossed
some new book I suppose, I like to

1
Lewistown N.Y.

Jan. 22 1879

My Dear Mr. Davenport

Your card received
I hope you will get through in a financial
point & reciv into your catalogue,

I will do what I can and will notice
it in all our papers; but you know there
are so few successful, here that I am a little
doubtful it would not be very much good,

If you had time to get a little circular printed
and direct persons & Botanists I think you
could dispose of a number, as I said before
we will take 6 copies, & I have already told.

I find in my experience that there are a great number
of people who want to get something for nothing.

but they will give you a nice notice if you will be
kind enough to send a copy of your book &c.

If I had responded to every call my editor would have been
exhausted long ago, and my pocket ruined.

I suppose you are to busy now to talk about coming
New England, I am in no special hurry, as I
have more work on my hands now than I can possibly
accomplish. The longer I live it seems the more I
have to do, and I have no fear of running out of

raw material. I do not see how you fellows
that has large families & look after can get along.
About this New England book. I would like to make
one suggestion. The Publishers of my Farms of 14, are I
think pleased with the success of the book, I suppose
they never had a book the issued from their houses
that was so well received, and as Prof Gray said it
looks to us as if it had been printed & stereotyped in
New England. Mr Bangs the business manager would
make a sacrifice to get hold of a new England book
to publish. The firm is wealthy and they could afford
to set it up at cost. Now would you think of
that. What you want and what I want is to get up
a work first class in every respect. I have a good deal
of influence with this house, however I have said little
about it in fact nothing. I only gave and received some
hints. The firm is straight forward in the truest sense of
the word. The trouble with them they are too slow.

But if a good work was gotten up I have not the least
doubt but what they could sell large numbers to the
Eastern dealers. Since I am on this books business
I may mention that it will not do to put too much
faith on subscribers. They send their name and promise
to remit but that is the last of it. You told me
in one of your letters that Mrs Cooper of Santa Barbara
advised you to send her I believe 3 Dgs. Now I want
to tell you confidentially that Mrs Cooper subscribed for

my Farms. I sent it as soon as published
and I have never received a word about it since.
I thought probably she had not received the copy,
but from the way you wrote me about her
thinking about adopting the work as a text book
she certainly must have received it. I do not
think I have sold two copies in the whole State
of California. You was kind enough to warn me
about Cassino. I do this now to you as a friend.
I think I have about 40 subscribers that have not
called for their books.

I did not send any books to Cassino on our mission
he afterwards bought 10 copies. I think Doolittle
will put the book well.

I enclose you another etching. You see it is in
the parvulus and the Q. alabamensis. I also send
a new etching of A. noveboracensis. a little im-
provement over the one in the book. I am ^{working} more
them over again. There is nothing displeases me than
a poor illustration. I am much astonished that
Eaton would allow such poor work in his book.
The artist, it seems to me, can do it well when he chooses.
I think in a book of such pretensions there should not
be a single poor plate. I had a very kind letter
from your friend Wm Robinson some time ago —
If you have time write me, I like to hear from you
our Sincere friend
Wm W. Henshaw

Compl. to Mrs D. & family.

Louisville Ky

Feb 16 1879

My Dear Mr Occupant

Yours of the 2^d was received
I hope you are getting on with your
Catalogue nicely, but there are so many delay
in printing and correcting proof that is
annoying, I hope you will come out all
right financially, I am sorry to hear that Cassino
is hurrying their Hans of 1879, so fast, I am sure
that Prof Eaton will not take any careless work,
I do not want to say much against the illustrations
it might be taken for envy on my part, there are
some of the plates excellent, but the majority will not
bear close inspection and those last Osmonds are
miserable, I receive four copies of the book and the
subscribers are grumbling a good deal, I suppose
you have noticed some of the pages will not turn
in binding

I have made out a programme
for myself that I think you will approve of.
if not I want you to say so, never hesitate
in giving me your honest opinion, about anything
I do, there is far too much flattery in this
world, Your last criticisms about my plates and

2^d edition, I notice and will attend to. —

My Program me already referred to is this.

I have lately received a few orders for my etchings, printed direct from the plate and they seemed to be appreciated. I have so little time to do the printing that I ~~thought~~ found it difficult to furnish them that way.

I found I could get them printed here at a reasonable price and concluded to publish a small edition with the etchings printed direct just as you suggested. But in thinking over the matter I reasoned who would buy such an expensive book. I then thought on another plan and that is this. I will just read you a circular that I intend sending out. it is not printed yet

Seven Etchings by J.W. —

"a handsome bound vol. of 62 etchings of the ferns of the Northern U.S! will shortly be published by John P. Martin & J. Louisville, Ga. The etchings will be printed on the best Whatman's paper 9x12 This work will contain all the ferns that has been found in the Eastern and Middle States." This then is the idea. I will have no descriptions only the Scientific and common names. I will have no magnifications only the fern natural size either whole or a part. This I think will make a very handsome book being nicely bound and on the cover I will have *Sرخomanes radicans* stamped and printed in gold. If I can get 50 subscribers I will push it through (not hurry it)

I have concluded to put the price at \$10.00 per copy including mailing. I am busy etching over all my poor plates and possibly will have to call on you for a few ferns. All the plates must be perfect as good as the *A. boreoamericana* or *Sرخomanes*. the plate will be the same size as Fern of 14, and if you should undertake your Fern of h. e. the same plate could do you see I do not want to do any thing but what could be utilized. For a popular book "Fern of 14" is about right. This book I am considering you can see will appeal more to the artistic taste than the Scientific.

I will send out with the circular a specimen plate at cost to the Press. I have concluded to etch *Aspidium fragrans*. Do you think this is an attractive fern. I once thought of *Chara lanuginosa*. I want a small fern and one that I have not in Fern of 14. Now I want to show you my very best work and may send you plates occasionally for your approval. I will send several at a time and will enclose them when writing anyone. I enclose you a better print of *A. boreoamericana* than I sent you before. —

This is all I remember now. Compt to your family

Your Sincere Friend
W. Williams.

Louisville 13

March 5

1879

My Dear Garrison

Your postal card I received this afternoon and was very indeed to hear of that little accident. I hope I will soon be well. I can understand how much you will be put about, you work every minute & count I suppose. The poem you sent a few days ago I read with great interest. Such men as your lamented friend Pratt are the salt of the earth. I have lately read Hamerton's fine history of Frenchmen, all noble characters and all worthy to be copied. I took the liberty to make a short extract from your poem for our Evening Post. I think those lines are beautiful. I have pasted them in my scrap book.

Now about my new undertaking. I will explain the whole matter. I am perfectly safe from a financial point. They say figures can't lie, well here is the statement.

Whitman's paper	65 ^c	per copy
Printing plates	65 ^c	" "
Printing inlaid & names	50	
Binding	75	
	2.50	

Now I can print, or rather get out 25
or 100 Copies, at an average of about £.50
or thereabout. I have no descriptive matter
nothing but the etchings, printed from the
plates nicely bound. I have 10 subscribers
now and I have not sent out any circulars
yet. I am going to send two specimen plates
finished in the same style as they will appear
in the book, to the press. I enclose you one
of them Woodvii glabella, the A. fragrans,
in the other one. I think they are both pretty
fair the little Woodvii especially,
how another thing Dr Davenport. I am going to
dedicate this work to you, and you must
not object. To you I am indebted for
many ^{valuable} hints, and I certainly do not desire
to ~~just~~ show my gratitude in such a way
that may be remembered when we may be both
gone. I want every plate to be good
of course I cannot please everybody.
About my second edition I think I had better
wait until another year I may then be
able to add a few more species to the
Sly den flora, and another thing I want to
work over fertilization, thoroughly, and give
a number of original microscopic drawings
This winter has been so very cold here that I had

difficulty in keeping the young ferns
from long enough for examination,
one word about Dr Foste of Phila
I think we had better give each other
our experiences. My business relations with
him is slight but I would like to give
you one little incident
Last year when my book was published he
wrote me he wanted to exchange books for
his collection for my Ferns. I made out
a list. he only sent one. The others he could
not exchange but would sell. The book he
sent was Mones British Ferns &c. This was
a very old edition. I sent him my Ferns &c, and
was ~~for~~ surprised to find in his next bulletin
it catalogued at 1.50 when 2.00. was the published
price. if he was asked it now at that price
I would not say much, but a new book, and
one that would be likely to sell. He wrote
me last week desiring to exchange again but
I gave him a little of my mind. The fact is
anything I want to get out I control.
I am glad you are trying to straighten out the
Polypterys I have not yet. That I have not yet,
but some one must do it. I was not aware
the Mr Fosse was an artist. I will watch his
drawings with interest. I have seen some of

Surgeon work he is illustrating
Mechanics work; Prof Gray says "his work
is good for the money," but who can
make a Chromo respectable
I have written more than I intended
I have a plate in the acid I must
attend to it, it is one of your little friends,
of the family of Botrychae.

Your true friend
John Williamson

What induced me to think about the
works was the letter one asked I was
receiving for my plate, and I was
not comfortable in my office, I was

my plate left out, I had no time
to print them myself. I put them
forward at one cost each, my money

Louisville Ky
March - 31. 1874

My Dear Davenport,

Your two P.O. cards
received. I thank you for the offer to
send out my Circulars. I mail you to night
a number / I did not get very many printed.
Your good words regarding Specimen Etchings
is very encouraging. I must make an endeavour
to have every plate in the book like sample
I will send you specimen proofs. & just
before then, I have received some very complimentary
letters since I sent out the Specimen, and generally
accompanied with a subscription.
A letter from an ^{art} connoisseur in New York, says
"I hasten to congratulate you upon the beauty of the
Specimens sent - upon their fine execution
and upon their general excellence"

Prof Gray writes, "The Etchings are neat and good,
and then he says to be useful I ought to have
directions & details, printed ^{with} the letter press, and
by the process of Electro-photography. This is not
my object at present, and if ever I do any thing of
that kind I will take a long time and
make a series of original micro-drawings.

but more about that again - All I am after
now is to have a series of sketches of our
native ferns, and trying to give each one its
real character as I find ~~them~~^{it}, growing in the
woods. It is as much from an artistic point
of view I am working as any other.
I send you two more specimens ^{copies} you can
hand them to Mr Faxon or Mr Robinson or
in fact to any one you please
adieu for the present
Yours sincerely
Williamson

1
Savannah 17
April 14 1875

My Dear Mr. Davenport

I have just time to
write a line, your catalogue received
It is undoubtedly the most perfect work
of the kind I have ever seen. I will write
a short notice of it for our Evening Post.
I am going to arrange my plates according to
it, and I want you now, when you get
a little time to advise me about the
varieties. I do not want to have any
thing in fern Etchings except
real typical specimens of each species,
My book you must remember is as much
an artistic work as a scientific. I do not
want to have any more than about 63 or 66.
You look over & report, by the way I suppose
you saw the nice compliment I received from
The (Thunderer) "Nation" I have always been
afraid of that paper, that notice has brought
out a number of enquirers, Enclosed find
three dollars
your sincere friend J. W.

Much better than I could do
it ~~and~~ The only thing I would
do would be just to give a con-
fession without any explanation.

I have the liberty to quote from
them as much as I please

I may however add a note
where I treat it properly
etc etc, if convenient answer
as soon as possible -

I must send you a
plate as it will appear in the
book.

John Smith

John Williams

I am going to leave you again. I will give you a few minutes ~~under~~ the new bridge to write me & say what is my book that my receipt will I send to No 37. I want to send you a T and have received the old letter. I am sure to meet you as you have the very old letter. Confessing of Spiritualism. Surely it is a great deal of a small book. I am writing a new reference especially in the letter. I am all of your friends with the exception of those there and two of the smaller collections. I will write you that a few suggestions are made.

and send them on for your appreciation
please answer as soon as you can
Thank. I would of being but before
I will have to. on today over
your catalogue I found I have left
out *Woodhouse hyperborea*. etc.

The well accounts. Mr. Hall sent
me a specimen of *Asperopsis muricata*
do you think I ought to include them

I want to make the book as perfect
as I can but I do not want to
be out of the range. That is the
North American U.S.

If not to much trouble send me a
Woodhouse hyperborea *Botrychium* *asperopsis*
and *W. humilis*. I have a small
specimen of the latter from Scotland
but prefer to include one collected
here. another thing I almost forgot
that *Asperopsis latissima* *subulosa*.

I have never seen a specimen
close at any way from the *Botrychium*

except in the west.
Mr. Sawport my belief in the
and sent to the west.
My friend Wilder says reports he
has found a *Botrychium hyperborea*
with a fertile species.

I will be to send it at once.
Do you think I ought to take the
point of *Asperopsis* leaving
an ovalization to rest. It has never
been found. in that state here I
I have stated every all the plants
now, the *Asperopsis* that appeared
in form of *Asperopsis* to you in the
book. but will show you the specimen
have to choose for this book, that
that I had good, I retained.

Now about my description.
I think I will adopt a short
description as I had in specimen
copy. copied from Gray & Eaton
they have discovered all the terms

book - by John Smith, late
Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens
of Kew, Member of the Linnæan Socy
&c - and I may say a good Botanist,
This little book is a Catalogue of
Exotic and Indigenous Ferns, cultivated
in British gardens, with Characters of
Genera & - Under the head - Dicksoniaceæ
he gives, *Sitolebium*, *Balanitium*, *Rauulf*
(Desh)
Dicksonia, *L. Kest.*, *Eibotium*, *Knauf*
Thyrspteris, *Runge*, In the genus, *Sitolebium*
he gives the following species, *S. punctilobum*,
J. Smith, *Gadlean*, under J. Smith, *S. daniellensis*,
J. A. - The following Synonymes, he gives
S. punctilobum, *Nephrodium punctilobum*, *Michx*
Asp. punctilobum, Sw., *Dicksonia punctiloba*
Hook., *Dicksonia pubescens*, Schrk., *Dicksonia*
pilosuscula, Willd., *Sitolebium*
pilosusculum, Desv., North America -

I do not know if you will understand
this, I do not like to come to conclusions
too hastily in scientific matters, If you
think I ought to change to correspond with
Eaton I will do so, I have no doubt

Louisville Ky

July 14 1879

My Dear friend Davenport

I enclose you
Woodsia hyperborea - I have tried my
best to give the characters & features
of this little fern, I hope you will like
it. I introduced a young frond so as
to show the hairy character. I will
leave you to judge whether I have ^{shown} made
the main character between this and *W.*
glabella - I had a letter from a friend
of yours a day or two ago, Mr Woodhouse - I
sent him, *A. dichomanes*, *A. Brachy-*
A. parvula, and *Compsopteris*, he
wanted the of a drawing. This is quite a
compliment. By the way I must see
Sullivan. I think one of my friends takes it

Now about that Spinalism -
I am delighted to know I have found
it. I am growing a plant that is
sending up some new fronds, I
will then examine it carefully.

About the A. Americanus, I
really did not know very well what
to do. before you wrote I had
my mind made up to stick to
the old name. Now since you
advise me to do so, I will just
use the var. intermedius. after I
get these C. tetrag off my hands
I will have a thorough overhauled
of all the species.

The next thing is the Dicksonia
You say Prof. Eaton is right. Of
course I have no means of knowing.
I have no authorities here that I
can refer to. I have a little

But what the grace that a good deal I think
before he made the change,

I would like to send you S. Smith's Catalogue

that is if you have not seen it.

Hecker had a very high opinion of S. Smith

but then, my opinion, he made the great changes,
and generally, when he had his changes with the
name of John Smith.

Your sincere friend

John Willson

Louisville 14

My Dear Mr. Peck

I send you
to day an *Aspidium*. That I
took at first sight to be
a real *Spemulaceum*. The light
tone of green The character of
The lower pinnae and the
second cheffures of The stipe
made me think so, However I am
not sure. I only got a few
plants. and on one The incision
was just forming I could see no
signs of *Cilia*.

I found it in a situation
very different from where I found the
other intermediate. The var. I never found
except in a through sand stone
region, The plant I send you
is from a place that I find it differs

To describe geologically

It was growing on the outside skirts
of a rich wood, being well exposed
The soil was a mixture of
leaf mould and sand. The
outcropping rock was pure limestone
in fact this section of country is
limestone. (limestone everywhere)
but at this particular spot the
~~the~~ ground is what we term
rolling and the soil has a large
percentage of sand. The place
gets the name of sand-hill on
that account. *A. novellae*
I found in the same locality,
and in a swamp about 200
yds distant I found the *A. cristata*.
The *Prothomus radicans*, was sent to me from the
Mountains Rockcastle Co. it is a poor specimen
Your friend, J. W. Clemens

Louisville, Ky

Aug 1879

My Dear friend,

Learn & Teach, will
be in the bindery to-morrow, I will
send you a copy just as soon
as it is out, you know I
cannot afford to give this book
to the reviewers, I may send a copy
to the Nation, & one to Prof. Gray.
If not too much trouble will you be
kind enough to show the book to
your Clerk and to some of the
Salem Gentlemen, I have only
printed a few, but if I
can get ^{enough} subscribers I can very
easily get out another Ed.
I may tell you, it will make a
handsome looking book, of course all the

Slater will not please you

I must say your friend Mr Higginson,
of Needham, is an enthusiastic
admirer of the Etchings,
He seems to be a man of an
~~extremely~~ sensitive nature, he
sent me a long and interesting letter
a few days ago,

He also sent me a beautiful
gift, a very rare and valuable
book, - Hamerton Etchings and Etchers,
first Ed. To me this work will
be of great value,

I will return your little plants
inside the book.

Your sincere friend

John Williams

}

Received from John Williams

Hamerton Etchings

JOHN WILLIAMSON & CO.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Sept 11 1878

Dear Sir,

By One Friend.

Your favor was received.

Many thanks for the information that all the
 same things that I ordered in solid, for I have
 I did to a great extent the same thing
 and have no doubt of the quality of the work
 I have also descriptions for the same work
 in my mind but with a few more, I am going
 to print it in my own way at once. I
 expect to sell several at Christmas.

Dear Sir, I am glad to hear that you
 have seen the book of Esther & Lamentations, Calvary
 I have no less fear. Now what do you think of
 it? I am sure you will like it. I am sure in any of your
 contact friends to point out all the beauties in
 the book. I will have them
 corrected in 2^d ed. any hints you give will
 be appreciated. I must have this work as nearly right
 as I can get it. Although Mr. Redfield says
 it is as nearly perfect as human effort can make it.

I think that is a little ~~too~~ overdrawn -
for it is very enthusiastic about the book -
I have so many things to tell you that I must
leave off until more time.

About the notices you intend to write, be
kind enough & send me copies.

Mr Paul ~~Bryce~~ & Mrs York wrote me he wanted the
Rev Lysons. I would prepare the notice in the
Naturalist. They said very little about the book
13. - I do not think they mentioned it. I
sent them a copy - but I am not particular
about that. please your self -

My letter. I have managed the small
form pretty well but the large ones are not
satisfactory for my small paper & I doubt of
treatment.

Any one wanting the book will please to
wait at least a month. now the edition
must be all correct. Send notice as early
as you can.

By the way - I have something else to tell
you. A correspondent in Leam sends me
a pair of Sceloporus vulgaris collected
in the Mountains of Leam. I will make a note
of it for the ^{Long} Faunula.

Did I send you your plates. Yours friend

from David's Mill.

I was looking for them the other
night but could not find my books in them,
at the time.

John Williams

Louisville Ky.

Sep 16-

My Dear Friend

I have started in earnest at 2^d Ed. and now ready for suggestions. I am removing all the numbers entirely, will have the corrections made about creating the two plants you speak of to Mr. Pangle. I think very little, of Mr. Koyssadt, after what you said, I have always thought him strange, but have had little correspondence with him.

I had a very nice letter to day from Mr. Watt, "he is much pleased with the book" He says further, "I would like to have sent you *Woodia hyperborea*, your form is not characteristic enough and also *Cypripedium montana* which you omit what has become of *Asplenium dilatatum*,"

Lonicera & *Scolopendrium* do you print each?

I have been congratulating myself
or how hyperborea turned out, I think
it is pretty good, I only wish they were
all as good, but I was glad to
have Mr Watt express himself
about the Co. montana I was not
doubtful about ~~using~~ ^{including} it.
I may do so in Oct also the
Adiantum Capillus veneris,
but I think I will not trouble the
Adelalatum.

I am anxious to see your notice
in Transcript, I see the
Boston Advt as often as I want
but ^{not} the Transcript,

You are at perfect liberty to
say what you please, and if
you mention the faults why
all the better, I hope my
dedicating the book to you will
not influence you the least, the book
you know must stand on its own

merits, and when you & I
are both gone the book
will still be there to speak
for itself, if it is worthy of
existence it will live, if not
it will die as it ought to.
I have gained a correspondent in
Florida and one in the Mountains
of Penn, I think both will
turn out to be valuable
about Mrs Cooper. I had a
long letter from her this last
been mis-carried, it reached me
about a year after it was written,
she said nothing about remitting,
I don't know what to think
about her, I will write her
in a few days,

Yours Sincere Friend
John Williamson

Mr Co. spoke very complacently of you

I think Mr. Latham makes as much
out of this art as possible to make
He has a boldness that Emersonian
never dreamt of. I think Mr.
Latham would enjoy working with
the etching needle, I hardly regretted
the Woodcut hyperborean, is this a type of
specimen. I have asked Mr. Wall to
send me a good plate. I think the
Woodcut hyperborean in Fern Etching is
one of the best in the book, it has a rich
tone that gives of the others have
it seems to stand out better. Excuse this
personal criticism.

Yours Sincerely
John Williamson

Louisville Ky

Oct 6 1877

My Dear Mr. Davenport.

Your P.O card
received this morning. In regard to the
A. Lonschites I think your friend is
correct. as soon as I saw the first
proof I noticed that object, I have
not printed the plate yet, and
may make the change, but I will
consider this carefully first. Otherwise I
think the plate is good. There are
quite a number of the plates I am
not altogether satisfied with, and if
I have not time to correct them for
in 2nd ed I certainly will do so
some time or other. I have nearly finished
A. O. fallis venens and G. punctatus
The Acharion I think will make a good

I will send proofs in a few days
I have not yet heard from Estes &
Lauriat. perhaps I did not make
them a ^{very} liberal offer. I offered them
25¢ per ⁺ copy. This is the best I will
do. & to tell you the truth I do
not care whether they accept it or
not. I am very independent about
this. I thank you for calling the attention
of Mr Stout to the book.

I am anxious to push the book
myself. but can't do anything until
the notices are out. I have Mr Redfield's
show me how - Do you think Mr John
Robinson or Mr Foxon would endorse
the book. so as I could use it in
a circular. The notice notice has
not appeared yet.

I am going up to ~~confer~~ ^{confer} with
Morrow and may make some
arrangements with Robert G Clarke
& W. F. Felt.

Estes & Lauriat had plenty of time to
answer, but I am not going to
make any bargain with any one except
I get my own terms. Every person
that has received this book is
well pleased and they all think it
is cheap for the amount of work
put into it.

I had a box of plants sent from
my Leven friend ^{living} yesterday. He sent
a beautiful large ⁺ specimen of Scirpus.
I have pressed it & will send you
& Prof Eaton a piece -

I may tell you however. That I think
this individual plant. has been growing
in a greenhouse for some time,
(He did not say so.) I have written
for a few ~~other~~ specimens that were
collected in the original locality.

I have received Eaton ferns & etc
I like the plates very much.

The drawing and drooping rabbit is
all right, (read Eaton's description)
but the coloring of the plate is not
satisfactory, as I said before it wants
a little more life. It is too much
like a pressed specimen. That is the
trouble with all scientific work-
and Emerton ~~pressed~~ drawings
were spoiled in that way. He never
saw beyond the object lying before him.

The true artist must feel that he
is in the woods and holding converse
with his favorite.

I am having two new stamps made
for the over. and I think this
Ed. is going to look well. I will
send the one you ordered to the Horticu-
ture Society, so you can see it.

I must also give Mr. Hoppinson a copy
he sent me such a nice gift.

I enclose you the new plate of
Pellaea praedicta. It is very much like
C. across the border. I tried to have it look
as delicate as I could. Yours friend
F. D.

117
Nov-5

My Dear Mr. Davenport

Your letter and Mr.
Robinson's Review of Farn Etching
was received. I certainly could
not have wished for a better
notice. After reading such a review
I am afraid any one getting the book
will be disappointed. About that

I bel I had thought very little,
~~about it~~. except that it
would very likely be the truest
record. Mr. Robinson must have erred
in this way. You know I would
never do for one to be sold, and
as I have made a partial success
of Farn Etching, I am a millionaire.

to pursue this thing further. My friends
tell me I ought to try landscape and
figure &c - but I am not going
to be coiled away from my first
love. I have a great deal to do yet
even in the illustration of Lays.

Many figures of the reproduction again
would be a beautiful subject.

You will be the first to hear of
any thing new. By the way what about
your "here England joins their allies"

I sent Mr Robinson Review to Coulter.
I hope he will get it in. I made no
changes, but the article is so long
that I fear he will not accept it.
I have promised to take a number
of copies. The Survey Bulletin
made its appearance your notice must
have been crowded out. I will get
along very well with the revisions I have

already got, I don't do to have
them all appear at once anyhow.
I suppose you have read the
Scelopendrii article. This is all right.
My correspondent is now visiting South
Pittsburg, and I expect a lot of plants
in a few days. The specimens he sent
me were brought from this place about
six months ago and planted in
a greenhouse at Nashville Tenn.
He was a little put out when I asked him
if he was quite sure the ^{Lays} ~~plant~~ was
not planted there.

You must remember me to your
Lady friend from Maine. I should
like to see some of her work.

I would be willing to exchange any
of my Etchings for any small flower
piece she has. I am not very well
satisfied with the Capillus-veneris

Louisville Ky -

Dec-7

19

My Dear Friend

Your letter received, I was glad to hear the outcome of the Chelanthus matter. Your last letter was rather desponding. I was very anxious to hear from you. I assure you I am exceedingly glad at the result. It is also a matter of great pleasure to me to have you speak in such high terms of my 2^d Ed. No one knows the amount of work better than I do, that is put in this book. I tried to be careful with every detail. The Chelanthus I will remove as soon as I can. If I could afford to give you a copy of 2^d Ed I would gladly do so, but I must be just before publishers.

I could put one to you at the regular discount \$6.⁰⁰₁₀₀. I do not know yet how I am going to come out yet, try and get me one or two subscribers. I mean of course in a legitimate way. I have only printed 50 copies of 2^d Ed and 20 are sold, I think.

There would be no difficulty in getting rid of them all
I have not heard from Mr. Farnes yet, and I think you
mentioned a friend of yours in Malden who spoke about
a copy. The book is an expensive one and of course
I do not expect many will buy, but I believe
it will be a rare one. It cannot be reproduced
in quantities like any other book, except by the
transferring process. You then have only a common book.
I was glad to have the endorsement of a gentleman like
Mr. Whipple. I value his opinion very highly. It is hard to
get anyone not specially interested in ferns to give
this book a fair examination. Artists as a general thing
have no patience with special studies. except something they
are interested in themselves. Figure, landscape, Portraiture. &c.
I fear they would hardly recognise this work as art. A man
like Hansaton I have no doubt would, but ^{and especially artists} few men ^{have}
such a broad view of art as he has. I am going to
take a rest now. If I can. Will be glad to hear from
you. By the way I would like Prof. Gray to see the book
from his correspondence with me I think he is opposed to Etching
as a means of illustrating. I had a long letter from Mr
Higginson, I sent him a copy, he seems greatly pleased with the book.
Your sincere friend H. H.

It is the Least any more is questionable.
It seems to me that Prof Eaton, or the
Artist could have told pretty near
how many parts it would take to
complete this work.

I am very sorry to hear of your friend
Mr Robinsons loss. If I was able I
should like to give presents to some of
my friends, but not now.

I am glad to hear Mr Heggins is so pleased
with his copy he sent me his Photo. he
is a fine looking man, but a little plain
don't you think. This would was not much
especially for any of us so we must struggle
along. I have had plenty of hard work
and it is not even to begeth as I grow
older. I am also glad to have the great
opinion of your Artist friend. The
trouble about artists. The most of them
are narrow minded. I believe few
artists would recognize my work
as meritorious. Their ideas of art are
very lofty. I intend to send one of
these books to Hamerton. he is the most
interesting writer on art subject I know of
by the way have you got your Photograph
about if you have I should like one
I have promised Mr Heggins I would send
mine. I am not sure to this much. I
have none now but will probably
sent the Photograph in a day or two.

I have the book around but don't loose too much time
I know what it is. Your Sincere Friend
+ 10

I am very sorry to hear of your friend
Mr Robinsons loss. If I was able I
should like to give presents to some of
my friends, but not now.
Louisville Ky

My Dear Mr. Eaton

I think I must be the
most stupid fellow in this
community. I looked over these
books carefully and have I could
overlook such a mistake I cannot
understand. I spoke to the book
binder about these errors and he
said they could be easily remedied
by a practical binder. I would like
you to attend to them for me and
and whatever damage will be remitted
if to \$300 will not take the book.
I of course will send another.

I know it was a great deal of work
to arrange my plates correctly.
So what you can for me and I will
try and repay you with interest -
In your copy I will reflect your plates

as you desire. I am always some
are better prints than others.

Edt. Printing is an art. & I have much to learn yet.

I am afraid I am going to have more
trouble with Cassano.

You know I exchanged 40 copies
of Farm & Co for 4 sets of Farm &
Co I induced some friends to
subscribe telling them that I would
guarantee they would not be
required to pay any more than \$10.00
It was explicitly stated that the sets
were to be complete.

When he (Gossino) ordered The Forta Edition,
I was a little dubious, about sending
it. I suspected him. He wrote a
second time for the copy, & he
sure to give him the best discount
I sent the book and told him I am not
at once because I needed the
money. He wrote me to say...

if I understand the bargain
such and such a way, he somewhat
acknowledges his mistake by saying
"If you think it should include
these we shall not quarrel with you"
he then appeals to my sense of fairness,
he is a nice fellow to talk about
fairness, why did he not speak
about this when the 20 parts were
bought, he wanted to get a copy of
Form Ettings in his possession.
Why did he ask for the best discount
when he entered it should be an
exchange. he also promised to
add my "terms of 1/2" in exchange for
the acct I gave him but it
never appeared, I have just as
great a desire to be fair as any one
but I despise such a selfish
man as he is. He is the typical
Fox tree we read about.
he has got one book out of me 1888

to the publishers or the Editor
but I do not like to run any
great risks. Cassin and I
have some little trouble on hand
and if it should come to this
case he may change the color
of the Review, so probably the
best one ~~now~~ to see would
be the Editor or some of his
best friends

But it looks to me as rather
cheeky on my part to manufacture
friendly notices. I do not desire
any special favors. all I do
want that the book will be treated
as it deserves. And by some competent
person.

I was very sorry indeed to hear of
your eyes troubling you again.

I do hope they will soon be all right.
I enclose you my Photo. I am anxious to
see how you look. I have Mr. Higginson
Remember his to your family, Yours Sincerely friend J. W.

Louisville Ky
Jan 4 1850

My Dear Mr. Davenport,

I am getting all mixed
up with dates. I have written
two letters this morn and dated
the Doc -- 1849 -- but we have
commenced another year, and I
see the newspapers and a number
of very wise folks say it is a time
for reflection. My opinion is one
day is as good for that purpose as
another and he who does not
reflect every day must be a very
stupid fellow. One thing I
do hope that business will
be more remunerative the
coming year than the four or
five past years. but all have

a desire to get on, in the
world, and to be well thought
off. I do not say that every thing
has to be sacrificed to get rich
in worldly goods, but I believe
riches out to be respected.

I am afraid I am not made of
the right material to make money
this is a peculiar faculty, and
possessed by quite a number in this
country, but I am going to do
what I can to get on.

I received your requested letters
with the enclosed money.

Many thanks you must deduct
any money you are out of pocket
on 2/4c I will send to replace
the plate Woodcut organ.

I hope you will get the two
books sent, if now just
return them. With I tell you

know. I have examined several
copies since and they are all
right. Will I send you another
one to Mr Bushnell.

Have you seen the American Art
Review. I have good mind to
send a copy, then if I thought
some competent person would
review the book. The Editor is E.S.
Locke. I have subscribed for the
work and I think it is a
very worthy publication. Estes & Haun
are the publishers, a Review in their
work from an artistic point would
be appropriate I think, as the Magazine
devotes most of its space to the
Art of Etching. I am going to
send one to Hamerton Editor
of the Portfolio London.
If I could accomplish this I
would hand over ^{copy} one of the
York & Echings

books, you know I am just
as much interested in Art matters
as in Scientific studies, they
are both fascinating.

Pure Science is apt to make one
too much of a specialist,
but I am aware that to be thorough
in any thing one must specialize.
But really what can we
accomplish with our limited
time. I have just been working
until nearly ten o'clock
so you must excuse this
rambling letter.

I imagine Higginson must
laugh at my letters they are
always written in a hurry
will be glad to hear from you.
Your ever sincere friend
John Williamson.

Louiseville 18—

Jan 30 1880

My Dear Overport

Your letter was received,
Thanks for getting the books picked
up. If the Society refuse to take
that copy let me know & I will
send another. I have about 750
left yet, I had an order yesterday from
Lawrence Town. I had an enquiry
this morning from Canada, I think
they will soon be all sold. If
Mr Robinson should wish a copy I
will let him have it a little cheaper.
I have heard nothing whatever about
the California matter you refer to.
Did you hear of any thing?
The Opuntia matter I will
try next week. I am very busy.

present, I have a friend who is
a Surgeon in the U.S.A. he is
stationed at Port Lanchow Tsenen but
is often on the borders of Kweichow
This country has not been botanized
very carefully, he will send me
everything he can lay hands on in
the way of ferns. When I get
puzzled I will call on you

About your new undertaking
I don't know well what to say.
It seems to me it ought to be
successful. In England they have
quite a number of books of that
class. Do you intend to illustrate,
the genera I think ought to be figured.
I should like to make your illustrations
wood cuts as very expensive & get
up. The printing of the wood cut
is very cheap, much cheaper than
the lithograph. I am anxious to

hear your plan. The text book
feature I am inclined to think
will hardly do. I mean that few
schools will care about introducing
the study of ferns as a specialty.
When you write give me all
the particulars, and if I can be
of any assistance call on me.

By the way I had an enquiry
from England for *Thuchomera*
Petersii and *Hymnophyllum*
Sylvaticum. Do you ^{know} any thing
of the latter. I don't.

Be sure now and send me
your photo as soon as you
get it. Mr. Hoggins sent me
his. I am now having a
very pleasant correspondence
with him, he is a charming
writer, and was seen to be
both interested in the same class.

Lousville Ky

March 25 1882

My Dear Mr. Deane,

Your letter came to hand also the ferns please accept
thanks I have had no time to look at them yet. we are very busy
and working late. I regret to hear of the sudden death of
your friend Mr. Whipple. I have known him for some

time. I will always remember how kindly he spoke of
you about my effort in an artistic way. I am sorry to hear of
your ~~condition~~ being so poor I know how anxious you are to
do work. I hope you will soon be able to resume your hand book
but I think you ought to take a little more recreation this summer.

In your letter, you think I ought to go on with the ferns until
I have them all etched, I thought so myself some time ago,
but I have come to the conclusion to let them rest a little while.
I want to get a good collection of all the ferns of K.A. and
make my etchings from the best typical specimens I can get.
Another thing. There is a peculiar effect to be produced in some
of the California species that I am not sure about. In colored
lithography it is comparatively easy to get that effect, but in
Black and White it is more difficult. However I do not intend
to abandon the ferns. I look forward to a long life and

intend to make every minute count. The Orchidaceae is a Nat. Ord
I have always had a hankering after. I want to study flower form
I do not know whether I shall ever publish anything on the subject¹¹
but merely for my own pleasure I will take this up.
Another thing I have been so absorbed with my fern studies the
last two or three years that I neglected other things, for instance
I want to spend most of my spare time in the woods this coming
summer, taking notes and observing nature's ways generally.
I went out one afternoon last week and collected quite a number of
spring flowers. I must tell you of a curious form of the Heptameris
I found. instead of the delicate flower coming up first as is always
the case, in one plant there were two curious formed leaves, with five
regular lobes. The stem was similar to those that bear flowers on the
other plants. I intend sending the plant to Mr. Thos. Meehan. who
may be interested in this abnormal form.

I send you a part of European Ferns sent me by my English
Correspondent. I am a little disappointed with the treatment of Otites.
The text seems full of Fern lore. I thought probably you might like to
see this. I am promised all the numbers of this work. By the way
what about Eaton's Fern of N. A. I have not heard a word about
this for a long time. The last number I have is L.L. V 23.

Our Mutual Friend Mr. Hyatt is now in Boston. I suppose you have seen him.
He is a delightful correspondent. He is looking after some art matters for
me in connection with the American Art Review. I have had as time
to forward your copy of Fern Etchings yet. You know my business has to be attended
to first. but I have not forgotten you. Your cordial friend, John Williamson

be described as a fern like spray, on page
76 The fern inclination shown across
the page you can see is a little out of
drawing. It is too top heavy, instead of
introducing the reading matter under the
ground, but had filled up the space with
a few small grasses or green ferns. It would
have added greatly to the picture. If you should
see Harper give me your opinion, but the
whole article is a most charming one.

Page 79. The Bee here, is complete in every sense,
only one suggestion I would make, the bee going
towards the hive, ^{though} had been represented as
coming from a distance. This could have been
done by introducing another bee or probably
better by bringing down the blackberry
foliage a little lower. It is a great pleasure
to me to see such work as this. I think
Mr Gibson is from New England, I should like
to know him. I have not heard from
Mr Higginson for a long time, I may write
him to day. I shall be glad to hear
from you as often as you can.

We hurry about Fern Etchings. I have not
printed any thing for a long time it is very
hard and dirty work. I had not done the
printing however I could have been very much behind
too expensive a book to sell. Yours F. Williams

May 22 1880

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your letter came to hand
I was glad to hear from you again. I was
pleased to hear that you were in good spirits
and in better health than you had been.
I shall look forward with interest to
the May Bulletin. I cannot conceive what
Cassini is doing with my Ferns of N. A.,
Accidently does not intend to send them
without me sending him copies of Fern Etchings.
I must get the numbers of course, because
I am responsible as to \$65 besides my
own. I will write to him about this.
He is a (sharp) I would like to know
your plan about your (Fern Books.)

I have now received 9 parts of "Ferns from Ferns"
by Prof. Britton. I sent you part 7. Please
take care of it, as my correspondent says he
will send me all the parts as they come out.

The work is treated in a very popular style
I was amused to see the author had used
the Root from Sachs, just as I did, it
may be a very good wood cut, but as you
know as well as I do, it is a very poor
illustration of a *Platanus*.

If you should like to see the parts of this work
I would send them, at least one or two,

About two years ago I made some experiments
with fern spores, especially the genus *Asplenium*.
I thought under certain conditions I might possibly
get *Asplenium adnigrum*. I planted the spores,

of *A. peruvianum*, *A. adnigrum*, *Asplenium*, *A. nidus*,
and *Monachium*. I planted them success and
also in separate pots. I did not succeed in
getting any hybrid, but I found that

it was very easy of cultivation
from spores and it makes a most beautiful
plant when it is fully grown. I will send
you a specimen. *Charanthium* ^{vestita} I find grows
very easily, and will also make a lovely green
house fern. The *Charanthium* I could detect
from the first germ found, the others were more difficult

When you write your book it would be well
to get all the material you possibly can get
hold off. I have access to a good green
house and gardener, who will do me
any favor I want. He has been growing
Orchids for me, a Mr. Gilbert of Southwick, Mass
sent me a lot of bulbs and roots. These I had
planted and are now doing nicely. I
am only making drawing at present.

I find them very interesting, but we have very
few here. They are more difficult to manage
than the ferns, but I want to get a
knowledge of them, and light and shade
and but studying the orchids I think I
will accomplish my purpose.

There is a charming article in Harper for June
by W. H. Gibson. To be able to do such work
as that would be my ambition. He is
a true artist and poet. In page 44 he
says. "The fern like spray of Solomon's seal,
swinging its little row of straw coloured bells from
the edge above" Now this to me is the only objectionable
passage in the whole article. The Solomon's seal can hardly

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C

Louisville, Ky. June 26..... 1880

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your letter I received this A.M. I have a spare moment to write. I have not yet received the numbers of Ferns of W.A. containing Haynolds-fend, you seem not to have any hesitancy in dubbing him Fend. I think you may include Casserio, I have written time and again for the remaining parts of the Ferns he is always going to send them next day. I should like to meet him and give him a bit of my mind. Well about Spinalosus I sent you two living fossils collected by me this season at the same locality I found them last year. I do not believe there are fifty plants in this locality, but from my investigations they are the true Spinalosus or var bulgere of Eaton. Haynolds has been writing to me wanting A. lebanensis. He is very anxious to get this but you know I cannot make it grow. I have searched faithfully for it. I sent him all I could spare of Lichmanns radicans A. Brudleyi. Montana &c. He promised to send me a nice lot of Orchids but I have to see the first one yet. I suppose he is worth watching. What I can do in the way of Spinalosus for you I will do with pleasure.

I received the Bulletin with your Notholana
Mr Taxon work is very carefully executed, especially
Fig 5. I am glad you had such a pleasant
letter from D. Hooker. Do you have a spare plant.
I would like to etch it but no hurry.
Have you ever noticed the difference between the English *Euchromia*
radicans and our one. I have never seen a specimen of the plant from
in Ireland, but all the illustrations I have seen make it a much
larger and coarser plant. My ^{dear} correspondent writes me
there is a great difference. I sent him a few specimens
also a copy of my *Formos* 1/2. He compared the plant with
specimen in his collection, and could hardly recognize them
as the same species. He says further that the English plant seldom
produces fruit, except in large and fully developed specimens
whereas the American ^{plant} is well fruited even in the smallest
specimens. He thought the specimens I sent him were
the originals I made my etchings from, they were so true
to nature. This remark has been made to me before.
I suppose it is complimentary. I was sorry to hear
you say you had not been so well. I had a
nice letter from Mr Higginson about a week ago
he was in good spirits. He was pleased at you
inviting him to join your Field Club. I hope you
all had a pleasant time. I wish I had a stroll
with you. I do not know whether I will get
away this year or not. I long to visit the Cumberland
Mts. I think it is possible I might get something worth
while. I read your Brown-Throat & Yellow-Bird with interest. I speculate are

Louisville Ky
Sept 5 1880

My Dear Mr Davenport

I have been very busy since I got back from my little trip, and the weather has been very warm and at night after business I was tired out, I will make you up a package of ferns at once, sending you the spinulosus I collected.

I wish you had been with me to enjoy that Cascade, amid the hurry and cares of business. It returns to my mind as well defined as when I first saw it. I do earnestly hope this spot will be preserved in its primitive purity and beauty. From a number of letters I have received from interested parties I think it will be taken care of. I have done what I could for its

preservation. My object as you know
is purely from a scientific point of view.
I read your article on Ferns. from
Syracuse Courier. with interest

By the way was Dr Gray's paper
on Rocky Mountain vegetation published
I should liked to read it. Are you a
Member of this Association. They sent me
a ^{invitation} Circular to join, but I do not care
for these things. And I suppose every body
can become a member if he has \$8.00
to spare. "I'll put my money where it will do
the most good" I have not heard from
friend Higgins for a long time. I hope he is
well. I had a letter from James Britten. F.L.S.
author of European Ferns. I also enclose you
the Nature Criticism of Fern Etchings. I had it
printed on Postal Card. I have a few left yet
I thought this may get rid of them.
I must not forget your copy. but I have
done no printing for a long time.
Do you know Mr Geo Bates. Naturalists Agency
Salem. is he reliable. he wants Fern of ly
to sell on commission.
I will be glad to hear from you. Your sincere friend
John Williams

Dec 1/83

Louisville Ky -

My Dear Mr Davenport

I was very glad to receive your last letter, not hearing from you for some time I feared your health had been rather worse than usual, I will be pleased to hear the particulars about the Fern book, It will be impossible for me to say how long it will take to make the illustrations for the Geniee, I am very busy now and my time is limited, let me know how many illustrations altogether the book will require, the sooner I know, the better I will be able to make my plans, I also want to know the size of the page. The illustrations must be first class and

Not hurried, I had a long
letter from Mr. Higginson a few
days ago, he is well and in
better spirits than he used
to be I was glad of this
will welcome your next
letter

Yours Sincere friend
John Williamson

Louiseville, Ky

Feb 13 1857

Dear Mr Davenport

Your letter was duly received
was sorry to hear that you were
troubled with your eyes. This is very
trying weather, convey my thanks
to your daughter Ella, and tell her
I shall be very glad to hear from
her again. I was very anxious to
get your letter I felt that time
was wasting and as this will
be a long job I wanted to get
to work, but I could not do a
thing until I got the size of
the plate. I think the Gray's Manual

size will be a good one, for this reason, I intend to have a separate plate for each genus, and I can manage this on the "Manual" size as easy, at least nearly so, as on the larger size.

The Synopsis Filicin size is rather small for two genera. Therefore if I make my illustrations come within the border line of Gray's Manual illustrations, Grasses, &c. - This will make a very good size. The printed matter might be a shade larger all round, but that is a matter of taste. I like to see a good broad margin of white paper in books of this class. The Synopsis Filicin must have a very small margin if the illustration plate is $4\frac{5}{8} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$. If I had been going to illustrate the species I would have preferred the large page. but as the Fig. will be sections mag. - I think the Manual size is the best. In Etching I can manage the smaller plate much easier. You need not send me any material until I want it. I am well supplied. It will take me some time yet before I can show you my work. I will make at start 20 once -

Your friend Wm. W. Mead

At to some of your friends.

If nothing comes of it why no
matter, I sent one ^{of another design} plate to a
gentleman in Boston about six
weeks ago but he does not seem to
be much interested except he said
it was a gem of beauty & etc
But you know Kentucky is a bad
place to look for art therefore
the less said about that the better,

I know no one in Boston that
I could trust better than yourself
either from an artistic or a
Business point of view I wish
to know if you think the work is good
and likely to be saleable, if so
this may be a means of profit to
us both. I shall be glad to
hear from you. Remember me kindly
to your family. I read with great pleasure
your daughter's success at School
Sincerely yours John Williamson

Louisville Ky

Oct 2 1881

My Dear Mr Davenport

It is a long time since I
heard from you. I hope you are
well. I have had a very busy
summer but whether I have
accomplished much or not is a
question. I was never able to
get away ^{to the mountains} and that was a great
disappointment. but we must put
up with those things. This has been
a very warm and unpleasant
summer in this region. I do not
know what I would give to
smell the Sea breezes once more.
I have made up my mind to go
ahead with the fern book this coming
winter. That is the only time I can do
real good work. and I want you
to write out all your plans

I see that Estes & Lauriat add
~~hold~~ Beautiful wild flowers of America
and Beautiful Ferns of America
compiled by Miss Estes. I suppose
this will be a collection of a few of
the plates from Ferns of N.A.

I think I wrote to you some time
ago about a new decorative style I
work ~~some time ago~~. I would like
to tell you some more about this.
In fact I have half a notion to
send you a sample.

I do not wish to bore you with this
although it is somewhat of a business
affair. As you are somewhat
in the picture line I will
explain a frame I made the
last week. I had a photo
of our late President and
I concluded to make a frame
for it. The picture in what
would be termed cabinet size

My Etched frame forms a nest



This sketch will give you
some idea - on the nest I
have etched ferns daisies and
grasses. The daisies are growing
represented as growing with vigour
one taller than the rest has apparently
received an accident this is shown
broken and hanging by a thread.
to the right of this and above it I
have introduced a butterfly which
you will see is significant.
Underneath the portrait the beautiful
lines from Lemmings "In Memoriam"
"In moving up from high to higher
Becomes on Fortunes crowning slope
The pillar of a Peoples hope
The centre of a Worlds desire."
If you think you would like to see
this I would express it to you
at once it may be possible that
you could do something with it
in a business way - you may show

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Oct 7 1881

My Dear Davenport

I have expressed you
one of our Garfield frames with Photograph
I hope it will reach you all right and that you
will be able to do something with it
you can show it to your friends at
least, some admirers ^{of our late President} who have a few spare
dollars may be advised to purchase

If you are not able to do anything with it
probably you can recommend some good house
I want your criticisms anyhow, and you know
I am always open for advice,

The design I make on these frame are nearly
all alike. The arrangement of the glowers and
ferns I sometimes modify to suit my fancy
of course if any special design was wanted
if not to elaborate, it could be introduced.

Enclose bill so as we can keep matters straight
This frame is complete. it is intended to sit on a small
Easel on parlor table. I shall be glad to hear from you
as soon as you receive this
Yours Sincerely, J. W. Williamson

However you can easily find
out, what they are worth by
conversing with a few of your
Art loving friends,

I am in no hurry for the Garfield
frame. Remember me to
Higgins and Mr Low—

I have often thought about sending
Mr Higgins in a small piece
of my work but have been very
busy. Tell Mr Low I have gotten
up a very good tile frame with
etched panels. one I sent home
to day I wish you had seen
it one of the panels I used the
Golden rod. This panel was about
24 inch high so I had a good
chance to work out my idea
around the Golden rod I entered
a morning glory. I kept the morning glory
in silver with the Golden rod yellow.
I expect to hear from you as soon as you get

with interest your
of each my friend
I read on Garfield
my friend John W. —
my plate

Lowell Mass
Nov 1887

My Dear friend Davenport—

Your letter was received
this AM. It gave me great
pleasure to have the criticisms of
your friends and especially from
Mr Doane. I know what Lowell
can do in the way of engraving
I have been a great admirer of their
work and to tell you the truth
get some of my suggestions from
their cards. I am sorry I did
not communicate with you long
ago about this work. I have depended
upon some others that were recommended
to me but I have been putting
off for six weeks and have
had no satisfaction—

I will not refer to your criticisms
at present. I thank you
for your good judgment, but
more about this again,

I will express to you this evening on Monday three of my Etched Plates as I call them (see Webster) I ^{sent} them with three frames of any kind they have a slight coat of lacquer to prevent them from tarnishing. you can show them to the art antiquer. you can place them temporary in frames to suit your self; what I want I course is to sell them. To do this successfully they must be well endorsed and handled by the very best house. Now I leave that to you. Whether this work ought to go to the Jewelry trade or the Picture Store, Williams and Everett is a name that has been mentioned to me quite often. But if I sent this work to them and told them it was made in Kentucky I am afraid, that would be the end of it. Another thing I

Davenport probably a good newspaper notice would not do any harm. I believe it is worthy of some recognition. Of course I do not want any praise that will be out of proportion to the work. I am willing that you should present one of these plates to the proper party whom you think would appreciate it. I leave this matter in your hands.

Regarding the cost this is a difficult matter. you know art. work is gauged in price according to the reputation of the artist. the lowest possible price that I would take for one with the quotation "we are in lower land to day" is \$15.00

Oak tree with Oak leaf border. \$20.00
and the plate without any border. \$12.00

These prices are subject to a discount to the trade of 20 per cent.

If the trade should desire a larger discount they must put the price up

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Nov. 7 1884

Dear Mr Davenport

Since writing last I have thought of one or two things, Of course I do not want you to sacrifice too much of your time I know the value of time myself, but I know no one in Boston that I have more confidence in than yourself, and will be advised altogether by your judgement regarding my new work. I have thought over one thing that is in introducing this work to the public would it not be better for some time to keep my name in the back ground, I do hate any deception but I am located in such an outlandish State, as far as art is concerned, that if known will certainly be against me, The people here want every thing from Boston or New York, it is common talk, I know educated people are liberal and judge every thing on its merits, but the majority of buyers who have no opinion of their own must go to Tiffany or Williams & Everett. I suppose you know that, If there is anything in this work that can be utilized in a decorative way I would like to place it in the hands of a good man or firm, whom I would make some business arrangements with, that of course would be remunerative if it should become fashionable and well endorsed I have not the least doubt but what it would

be profitable but it must get a good send off.
Your letter was a very gratifying one, and has given
me a good deal of encouragement, but I am not too
sanguine I have had hopes blasted before and have begun
to know this world pretty well. I once had an idea I
should like to visit Boston and New York about this and
other things, but every thing has been so uncertain I did not
know what to do. If there is any encouragement I may
pack up my traps and go. My partner was very anxious
that I should take out a patent on this, I thought that
it would be money thrown away because it could hardly stand
the test, however seeing him so anxious I made application through
a first class patent lawyer in Washington, he reported favorably
much to my astonishment. The letters patent are not granted yet
but will be in a few days, this has more particular reference
to a mantle frame. I seem the application of etched designs
on brass for purposes of decoration is something new, this to me
is a small matter and I would hardly make use of it.
What is your opinion? ~~The plates sent~~ I was troubled a
great deal about the framing of these plates, so I concluded to
place them in this metal frame just to protect them from getting tarnished
or scratched the whole thing can be inserted in another frame as
you suggest and show a very narrow margin of silver.
Now if you get any orders for the Garfield frames I can furnish
you with the Etched Metal ^{only} which of course will be cheaper.
I have written to Mr. Low about my tile frames and also to Higginson
to call and see the plates I sent to day.

Sincerely your friend
Wm. Williams

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Nov 17 1881

My Dear friend

I am afraid I am going to lose you again if so just say so, but you are the only one in Boston that I know ^{who} will undertake what you promise to do. I have been expecting to hear from Mr Low for several days, in answer to an enquiry about a first class Mantel house, or dealer in tile frames. I have a frame ~~at~~ ready to ship and am in doubt who to send it too, a bad start might spoil the whole business. Now I think I will send it to your care. I would like you to see it anyhow. If my dealer is decided ~~one~~ afterwards you can have an express wagon to take it to the proper address. My expense you are at in regard to this matter charge to me. I enclose you wood cut of two styles of tile frames, one with Etched panels and the other with cast panels in brass or bronze, all that we are interested in furnishing is of course the frame. The tiles and other trimmings can be had anywhere. If any party however want the whole thing complete as represented on the wood cut we can very easily supply them. In your posted card you mention that Mr Low suggested some process of duplicating. I thought about that but and made some enquiries, Now don't you think if we

were duplicating the work it would cheapen it to much
and make it common. One of the principal points
I make in reference to the frames is in the great variety
of designs without going to the expense of getting up
a pattern. of course, could the work be largely used in
decorative art when a repetition of designs ^{the same} was wanted
then it would pay to have them duplicated, however if
the work is acceptable to decorators independent of the
price I think some means can be had to cheapen it if
necessary. Mr Forbes a Boston gentleman was in our
office about a week ago. He was exceedingly well pleased
with our mantle work and advised me by all means
to send it to Boston. he advised me to send it to the
Murdock Parlor Grate Co 21 Washington Street
Mr Shaw the manager of the concern is a particular friend
of Mr Forbes. I have no doubt but what this is a first class
house, but before sending I concluded to wait until I hear
from Mr Low who will be more apt to know better than any
other one. The styling on these frames are not so delicate
as the Parlor or the Memorial frame they are treated bolder
and bolder the frame sent is no extra job but a fair
sample of our work in that line. any improvements or
suggestions will be appreciated. the top panel I have used
a conventionalized form and left the brass surface somewhat
frosted like the golden rod is a favorite with me you see.
I love to do this work. I hope if it should prove a success some other
will not steal the profit or the glory from me. What is wanted is
some good honest fair play will control it to our mutual interest
Sincerely Yours John Williamson

It is a fine first time to do a little for students. I have plenty
of experience now in the office too.

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,

K

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Dec. 1881

My Dear Davenport

Your letter received, I suppose you are very busy, at least I hope so. I have been very busy and am now with my Patern, I think they are going to take, I was pleased with your letter and the criticism of your friend Mrs John A. Lowell.

I always imagined those things looked a little like his expression, that is the small plates, the ornamentation of the tile frame I believe is all right, this is more in my own line. but landscape I confess I am an amateur in the truest sense of the word, I never even attempted to draw a landscape before. This and have made up my mind to quit it except in the most simple manner. I am now doing some groups of flowers and ferns, in the form of square plates and plaques, and mounting them in velvet, I have ~~also~~ have had some orders for decorative palettes, these really looked very nice, I made one with the beautiful Adiantum spreading itself gracefully all over the face of the palette, I have more orders now

Then I can fill before Christmas, I must try and send
you some of my latest. This is work that I delight to
do and if it should turn out to be a success
I may be fortunate yet, another thing I want
to tell you, we have a few very rich men who are
disposed to encourage art not only the higher art
of Painting and the but Decorative art, one gentleman
whom I have known in a business way for some
years is building a handsome house and both
himself and wife are determined to make this as elegant
a home as money can procure. They have bought the
best wall papers that are made, they have employed
frescoes from New York, and imported other fancy goods
from London and Paris, they have both taken quite an
interest in my work, and ordered one pair of Plaques
to be presented to the Managers of the Winter Art tile work
in London, Thus I must spread myself on, other two
plaques to ~~go to~~ a friend in Boston, a few other
things for their own family, and an order to
go to work and decorate one of the rooms of the new
house, This troubles me a little I am a great
stickler of having every thing in good taste, to put
those Patterns on indiscriminately would be bad-taste
I would not for the world have a New York or Boston artist
enter any of the rooms of this house and say, this
work may be good but it is entirely out of place

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. _____ 188_____

I have few friends to advise me here. to tell you the truth a fellow like Lowell is a perfect God send to a student who wants to improve, however I will try my hand and tell you the result, if you have any suggestions to make when you get time. I shall be pleased to hear from you. By the way I may say that when a Lowell at least the firm must know my rich friend here in a business way Mr George Buchanan & the Newcome Buchanan co. I have never heard from Low. I have written him twice. I thought the tele frame would be the very thing. I believe I know every thing that is in the market. at least what is advertised, and I have had the opinion of two men in the same business (New Yorkers) they both said it was the very thing. But if I am on the wrong track the sooner I get right the better. I will not bother you about this. so don't lose too much time with it. If my Patens turns out successful I will be in Boston before my month. In talking about art there is a book reproduced by H. Gould & Co. Walter Crane's "First of May" This is a gem. This represents an English scene. The gathering around the May Pole The English have them

from the leading subject in the floral world
but nearly all the Spring flowers are introduced
The figure drawn is perfectly Marne Louis, a copy
of this book in the original form must be very
fine, but this reproduction seems poorly done,
I have examined nearly all the Christmas cards
foreign and domestic as they say about the wines
and have not met with a new idea in the whole
last Vadder picture of the blooming maiden I supposed
pleases the artists, among the cheap cards. The delicacy
of color and careful drawing the London in my judgment
is by far the best, Prang in my opinion over does nature,
and chooses great large cabbage roses, and other garden
monstrosities, when you know as well as I do. Your
New England woods are full of the most delicate
colours and graceful forms that will keep the flower
pattern long for generations, this is quite a long
letter, when you get tired showing these patterns around
return them I will send you some of the latest,
another thing I am gold plating them now, this
is a little darker than the brass, but they will not
tarnish and does away with lacquering them,
Compliments & Hvggington, I all your family wishing
you a Happy Christmas I, hope your cold is
better
your Sincere friend Thos. Chasman

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 63 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Jan 20 1882

My Dear Davenport,

I do not know how to express my thanks to yourself and Mr Wiggingson you have no idea of the pleasure you both have given me on reading your letters, all my friends here who know of my good fortune are equally pleased, Thanks for the present, and Thanks to your daughter Ella, for her nice compliment, Such praise will only urge me on to do better work, and do not be afraid about me losing my head, if I succeed now it will be only by hard work, I never knew what it was to have an idle moment, I wrote to Wiggingson last night and anticipated your suggestion of placing those plaques at \$15, or not, however I followed him to use his judgement, If some satisfactory arrangements could be made with Shreve Crump & Co. to give them control of this work, I mean in the way of plaques and small panels, card receivers &c. I certainly should like you to be interested in some way where by you could make a little, better in farming &c. I am open for anything that will put the work on the market and

have the dealers interest protected as well as
my own, so the fewer hands they pass through
the better. If this firm had the entire contrall
perhaps \$20.00 may not be too much, but
at present I think \$15.00 not will be best,
I am looking at this now purely in a business
light, I know what that is, it is a new thing, it
might sell well, it may turn out a failure
I have had so many disappointments, I have no
desire that S.C.C. should cheapen them, the purchaser
need never know what is paid for them. I think this
thing will straighten it-self. There are laws of nature
and laws of commerce. That must be obeyed, ~~It~~

I would not commit myself to any firm under
the sun to make those things for a fixed price
for any length of time. It was only yesterday that I was
approached on the decorating of a Rail way car, the proprietor
of the car works told me he was going to build an aesthetic car
using tile for decoration he heard about the Etching
and after seeing some specimens was greatly pleased
and told me he would consider it favorably, In
Davenport there is no end to this style of decorating
You ask about the tarnishing, the only points that will
tarnish is the silver. The plaque is gold plated
this is done to prevent tarnishing to keep this clean
only requires to be dusted, the silver spots I will give a

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

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METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. _____ 188_____

this coat of transparent lacquer. I am finding out now.
I write every day. The tile frame was not gold plated
this was the simple brass. I am very fortunate about this
work having all the facilities within myself to produce
the work in the best & cheapest manner possible.
I shall look with interest for your Manuscript notes
The papers here will re-publish it I stand well
with the newspaper fraternity. I will not say
any more now but present my thanks to Mr
Hurd and Mr Grunps. I will write to Mr C
to-morrow or next day. do you think I ought
to send a plaque to The Transcript,
just as a compliment. Remember me to
your daughter Ella. I thank you again.

believe me to be your most

Sincere friend

J.W.

JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, & C.

Louisville, Ky. Feb 10th 1882

My Dear Lavenport.

I have expressed you a small box containing two plaques. The plaques will tell their own tale. I have drafted a note to Higginson explaining the situation. To have the opportunity to do this little act is a great pleasure I assure you. Remember me kindly to all the members of your family, your kindness to me has ~~been one of the~~ made this world a more cheerful one than it otherwise would have been and I appreciate it.

I received your card informing me that the Murdock plate company had called; I am ready to talk business with them. By the way. I had an order from Mr Rudkin to day (of New York) for one or two pairs of plaques. I sent him your transcript notice I want him to show them to Tiffany.

I have not heard from Sherrin Crompton & Low yet, you know I wrote Mr Crompton a personal letter as you desired but I am not impatient at all. I am busy yet.

your sincere friend J.W.

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. Sept 2 ... 1852

My Dear Down Ford

I suppose you have received the
plaques &c. I sent you for the Exposition
I hope you will find them up to the standard and
that the Boston people will take kindly to them.
I send three sets of tiles to Shaw, I trust he will
give them a good send off. I am getting up
a new Circular and some small business cards
that you can hand over to the young man or who
ever has charge of Mr Shaw's Exhibit, when I
was in Boston I promised to send Mr Hurd
of the Transcript some piece of my work
for his kindness in giving me the recognition in
his paper. You now can take the liberty to give
both him and the advertiser any thing you suggest
or I can stick some other plaque or palette
for them. I thought about sending on some other
pieces but it is too late now and I think the
things that I have sent will give the people an

An idea of what I can do.

I think probably it would be better to wait a little while before noticing the work through the press. When the people have all returned from their summer jaunting, would be the best time. The plaque that is framed is one that I sold the gentleman was very anxious I would send it. What is your opinion of the frame I think the gold band next the plaque is a little out of place, but you have no idea how many different opinions I get about framing. When you write & me tell me your opinion of all the work, you observe the large plaque is better very bold, I was always met with the objection that my work was not bold enough. By the way I don't know what Lou will say about my ~~the~~ Bas Relief Tile. I got the first order in Philadelphia. Had no idea of it when in Boston, but it is just about the same kind of tile as his only my work is in Bronze and his in clay. I send you a notice from our papers to day I have ordered the Weekly Transcript for a year but it has not come to hand yet. I suppose you will have to put those things on small easel. Any expense you are at on my acct let me know.

Yours J. M.

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. Sept. 16. 1882

My Dear Davenport.

Your letter and Postal card received
I am glad you are pleased with my display. The
only thing now is that the Bostonians will appre-
ciate the work enough to send me
orders. The only trouble about the whole thing
is the Expense. Yet many a one spends lots
of money in buying very ordinary goods, either
in Art or household decorations. I thought
murderous people would take hold of the tiles, our
Boston or New England just as the firm
of Wellington & Burrage does with Low,
I don't think there would be any trouble in
getting them introduced. I think I could make
it an object for them pecuniarily to do so
One thing about this work that I want to
tell you, that is, the facility any one can
steal my designs, it is true that I am
copyrighted my designs, but how easy it

I would be for some manufacturers to just
use my tiles for pattern. The more I feel
I ought to have honest representation in
different cities whose interest it shall be
to protect me. These patterns are very
expensive. Of course I make them myself
and can make them as cheap as any one
the price I have placed these tiles at
are \$35⁰⁰ per set to dealers, at this price
I make a good profit. The dealer charges
I suppose about \$50.⁰⁰

I was glad to notice in your letter
that the South made a good display,
although it is the North that I must look
for custom. I was thinking that some

of your news paper friends could make an
interesting article. termed. The South at

The Boston Mechanic Institute, an article that
our folks would appreciate. Ignore the
politician, let Science and art
bring the two Sections together.

a good strong article in a Boston Republican
of this nature, will do more good to harmonize the
North & South, than 10 years of Washington legislation.
to general benefit of the exchange, don't be scared, just do as you please.
Your friend J. H.

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES,
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Oct
Louisville, Ky. Sept 4. 1882

My Dear Davenport,

Your Postal was received
to day I also received the Transcript notices
I do not think you could say much more
I am perfectly satisfied. I told our young
man in the office to send you more
Circulars and cards, several days ago. but he
always put it off. to-morrow I will attend to
this myself. I had a letter from Mr Shaw to day
I am beginning to think the Tiles will be slow sale
now whether they are too high priced or whether the
work does not suit the Boston taste. I do not know.
Shaw says the work is all right. and the designs are
excellent he said little about the price. but that some
parties thought them high. I do not want to re-
duce the price, ^{if I can help it} because if I do it for one place
I must do it for another. Now in New York
I just had a letter on Monday and they
said they were cheap enough. They are very

enthusiastic about them there, although
I may say the sales so far are slow
but they have hardly had time yet,
I went up to Cincinnati last week and
showed the work to the Architects and
Griddle & Grate men, they at once pronounced
the Siles the best in the market
and proved their words by ordering,
I felt a little encouraged that I am
getting out some more new designs,
and purpose taking a trip to Chicago
next week. I should like however
to get the Boston people to take them
up, The Low Sile I find will
be my greatest competitor, but this
country is large and surely there is
room enough for all, The Boston
people may be a little prejudiced
in favor of the Chelsea, It is fine
work and ought also to be encouraged,
Mr Shaw said in his letter that Mr Sturges the
Architect examined my work and was pleased
I hope he will see his way to use some of the
work. Thanking you again for your interest in my
welfare. Sincerely, your friend John Williams

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES,
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. Oct 15 1882

My Dear Davenport.

Your last came to hand. It being Sunday I thought I might drop you a line. You seem to be quite sanguine about my work, and so is every body that speaks to me about it. Mr Collins must have been very enthusiastic when he said that "The work is the finest thing within the four walls" I was also pleased with Mr Robinsons remarks. I had quite a talk with him on that matter, at the Pic Nic party and found him very interesting. Now I am afraid I have got these things a little too high in price I mean the plaques &c-- you suggested that I get up a few without border. This I can do easily and not put so much work on them I let them be sold at \$15.00. 25 off to dealers Now what do you think about that. When one pays 20 ^{or} for a plaque, and 6 or 7 dollars for a frame probably more, it makes them think twice before

buying, those pieces you have on exhibition
you can sell at what they will bring, of course
I would not like to make too great a
sacrifice, I would like ~~to~~ reserve the
large plaque and ^{fine} picture frame for the
Washington exposition. This is gotten up
to help on the Garfield monument. I
may take the Longfellow picture ~~frame~~ ^{out} and put
in one of Garfield - but if your visitors
should come back and offer to purchase
don't lose a chance. The taste at the present
time is after bold ornamentation, & coarse in
detail. I have no doubt the time will come when
my delicate productions, will be better appreciated.
About the tiles. They don't seem to sell. I have
the best endorsements from architects and decorators
and yet the people don't invest. You know what
I have said. New York people said the same thing
and yesterday I received two written endorsements
from the two best architects in Cincinnati stating
that the tiles are far ahead of any thing in the
market and cannot be unsurpassed for the purpose
they were intended for. Things are brightening
but I sometimes get discouraged. Wellington and
Burrage's agent is here but I don't know with
what success in selling, I wanted to see him but

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILLIAMSON & CO.

Louisville, Ky. 1855

he was not in when I called. I shall give him
all the assistance I can, we appeal to the same
trade, but it is left to the customer to choose
whether he wants Metal or Clay tile, about the
Salem Fair. It will depend a good deal on
the encouragement I get from Boston
If the Boston people do not patronize this work
I don't think I need try any where else
I wrote to Mr Shaw to let me know how his customers
felt regarding the tiles, whether they were to their
or whether the designs ^{or finish} did not suit, you know
it is impossible for me to tell here, I am
working hard to go up to Chicago. I want to
feel the market there. I am getting out
a new circular with your Transcript notices
principally about the tiles. If they once get
started and running well they will pay
better than the Etching
Yours friend John Williamson (over)

If you do not get your
article published in the
Southern exhibit - send it
to me I will get it in
some way before

Yrs

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILLIAMSON & CO.

Louisville, Ky. Nov. 12 1882

My Dear Davenport

I received your postal card and paper. I sent the article on the Southern exhibit to our leading paper yesterday. I think they will publish it complete. Now I think if you could send me the Etched Sign the large plaque and the Longfellow frame I would send them to Washington. I could put the portrait of Garfield ^{in the frame}. I may donate that to the Bazaar.

I know Mr. Putnam very well he represents the Metal Worker and I know very well he feels kindly towards me and never loses an opportunity to say a good word in my favor. The bronze tiles has struck the stove men.

I have enquiries from the leading stove firms in the country for prices and samples. I had a letter this morning pressing up the work in the highest terms. If I can get the

pieces & suit I will have more work than I
can attend to, one firm in Detroit wants me
to make a contract with them for one season
they guarantee to take 5000 sets, or about
65,000 pieces of 3x3 inch tiles. They to have
the exclusive right of my work for one
season. I do not know exactly what
to do. It seems to me that I would be wrong
in giving any one the exclusive use of my
product. In the first place I have no patent
on this work and cannot get any, just as
soon as the tiles are in the market
some other Brass founder will either
imitate or get suggestions. I know I am
the first in the field and I also know that
the stove firms are all eager for the work,
of course in making such large quantities
I can reduce the price considerably.
another thing. The mantle men are inclined
to throw cold water on the idea of
making bronze tiles for stoves. They say
it will make them too common.
There may be some truth in that, and if
I had plenty money to wait and see the
mantle tiles, appreciated as they ought to
be, and a probability of doing a good
business, I would not bother with the
stove tiles. Chicago is the only place so far

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES,
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILLIAMSON & CO.

Louisville, Ky. 1858

That has taken up the mantle tiles with an earnestness. The New York and Boston outlook so far is not encouraging —
Now I think I have a chance to make a success I have worked hard for years and have not been rewarded. My work has always commended the highest praise from the best judges. I know that this place is against me, and I could do better in a larger city, but I cannot leave now. I think I will try and make as many good contracts as I can for next season and push the thing for all it is worth. I know I can get Capital to do so. It is just possible the tide in my affairs is at the flood Give me your judgement in this matter. I thought I would get at the illustration sometime soon but at present I must watch this situation. Best regards to all the folks I am getting out a few plaques. Yours sincerely
J. W. Williamson

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. Dec 4 1882

My Dear Mr Davenport

I expressed you 5 night 3
plaques I dont know what you will think
of them I am very busy and it was
hard work to get them done. I allow
you a little latitude in selling those,
that is, I would not find any fault
if you got a dollar or two less
than the \$20.00, I will not find
fault with any thing you do.

These plaques are lacquered and if
you hold them in certain lights they
look a little streaky, but I find
I must do that because when exposed
to the atmosphere, either in or out
of a room they ^{soon} get very dull
I have one in my work room that
is lacquered it has no glass and is hung
right at the back of a stove that I burn

soft coal. It has been hanging up
now for 6 weeks and is as bright
as the first day,

I have had very bad luck with my
Washington display. I sent most of those
goods you returned and 4 sample
boards of tiles, by some accident
they have never reached Washington

I have been at the express office three
times but can get no satisfaction
it is too bad, but thank goodness

there is always some bright side to the
picture. I received a letter today from
my Chicago folks. They have received
the tiles, and pronounced them to be
very handsome, and say further that
"they are superior to any grate displayed
by Jackson of New York. Jackson

I may say has no equal in this country.
Mr Page of Chicago ordered some more
tiles. I am now busy getting up new
designs &c.

Your true friend J.W.

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Lancaster, Ky. Dec 11 1882

My Dear Davenport

Your postal card
received this morning. I am still busy
and this morning received small orders
for tiles from St Paul, and Minneapolis,
but very encouraging.

I received your
Statement and feel now that I am
indebted to you more than I will
ever be able to pay.

You have acted most courteously in
this matter, and I hope few summers
will pass before I can repay you with
double interest. I am now in a

quandary, what to do. I have prospects
of the brightest, but whether I will be
able to take advantage of them is a question.

In one of our papers here, yesterday there
was a long article from the Philadelphia Record,
about my work and myself personally.

ART METAL WORKS
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF
JOHN WILLIAMSON & CO.

Cincinnati, Ky. Dec 24 1882

My Dear Darnest

Your last two postal cards
was received. I hope you got rid of
some of my plaques. I etched some
very large plates for mantles. they went
to Cincinnati they were quite elaborate,
we are just in the midst of stock taking.

The proposed change in my business I wrote
about is developing, but cant do any thing
until I know how we stand. The tiles
are going to take I think. I am filling
orders now for Detroit and other points
I cant understand why the Boston people
wont buy. I think it must be the want
of pushings. every body praises the goods.
I am afraid it is the expense that scares the
Boston people. After new year I will
get things straightened up. and then will
talk a little better. compliments to all the family
and with many returns in the coming year
Yours
J.W.

I dont forget to give Mr. Howard something!

Louisville, Ky. Jan 10 1883

My Dear Davenport

Yours just received
with enclosed check. about the
one you gave Mr Hurd. I would not
worry myself about it. he has been very
good and I think he is a man
in very poor health and probably
busy. I may tell you now that
I think by the end of this week
I shall have my new company organized
I hope then to be able to do pretty
much as I please and not be hampered
as I have been. When I get things settled
I may have to take a trip East on business
matters. I of course will take a run to Boston
It seems to me that you have paid me too
much. I know you have done more for me
in this matter than any one I know, and I
shall not forget it either. I have got a very bad cold
I will write you more fully in a few days. Yours T. W.

Jos. W. Sprague,
Pres't

Geo. H. Moore,
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R. J. Menefee,
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227 & 229 West Market St.
T. Aspinwall & Son,
Agents for New York.

Louisville, Ky. April 16 1883

My Dear Davenport

I have often thought of writing to you, but not having anything special to say always put it off. Your paper received a few days ago on Distribution of Ferns reminded me that I ought to write. I am very busy as I expected and at present in the hands of the Philistine Prospects are fairly bright and I think it is only a question of time when I will be all right. I have been out in the woods every good Sunday. I like to see my old friends in early spring. I have done nothing at Botany. I am always thinking about making a start on that Fern book. If I could only get a start I would be all right. You will see from the back of this letter that we are to have a big show. I know what that means for me, lots of hard work. Compliments to all the folks. Tell Lizzie & Ella that I have made up my mind to get that photo taken this week. You know I am not much given to that. Your sincere friend J. W.

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T. Aspinwall & Son,
Agents for New York.

Louisville, Ky. Aug. 12 1883

My Dear Mr. Davenport

I write a line just to let you know I am still alive. I have received your checks list, New Orleans this M^o. but have been so busy that have had no time for anything but work. This Exposition of ours is a pretty big thing and every body wanted to have it a success. I have been working nearly every night until 10 O'clock, getting up new patterns for this, and also for other customers. Wm. Chas. H. Mohr of Mobile is here attending to the Alabama display; he has all the forest trees; the stamens, showing, large sections of wood, also, flower leaf & fruit of each species, scientifically arranged & named. I have had no time even to give him as much attention as I could have wished. I would like first rate if you could take advantage of cheap rates, and visit us.

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Louisville, Ky.

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Remember me kindly to all the folks and
compliments to Higginson

Your Sincere Friend
W. H. Williamson

By the way. Mr. Higginson ordered me to send
two large panels to you to have framed
I was only able to get one done.

I will send you an autograph of this
tomorrow.

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SEND TO THE
LOUISVILLE LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY,
449 West Main Street.

Jos. W. Sprague,
Pres't

Geo. H. Moore,
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R. J. Menefee,
Sec'y.

John Williamson,
Gen'l Sup't

Williamson Art Metal Works,

Manufacturers of

Plaques, Tiles, &c. cast in Brass. Relief in real Brim. Metal.

T. Aspinwall & Son,
Agents for New York.

227 & 229 West Market St.

Louisville, Ky, Sept 16 1883

My Dear Mr Davenport

a letter from Hyppman yesterday made me think I ought to write you I was very glad to hear from you that you have taken that trip to Vermont. I know you would enjoy it. I hope your health is improved.

I have been very busy and I don't see any let up our business has increased about double within these few months. It looks as if the tile business was going to be a success. I have written to Osborn the artist who gets up Louis designs. to see if he would make me some heads & figure pieces so as I could reproduce them in bronze metal.

I am having calls for such work, he however may not do it. I ^{can} get plenty of subjects to copy but I will not copy a line from any one, I consider it robbery to steal a design. I only trust my competitors will treat me the same way. I think I promised to send

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OPENS AUGUST 1st 1883.

CONTINUES 100 DAYS

REDUCED RR. RATES.

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Louisville, Ky.

188

Miss Lizzie and Miss Ella my photographs
Well you know how promises are kept sometimes,
about three months ago. I went to the photographer
who has been doing my art work. and got him to
take a cabinet size portrait. He did so
but something went wrong about the vegetation,
and I never had time to go back.

I was compelled to get my photo. for our
& poster, some red-tape, and for this I
went to the first man. It turned out
to be a pretty fair likeness, and I had time
to find a few. These now I send, with
the understanding that I will send the
large size just as soon as I get a chance
I shall be glad to hear from you
especially about your 11th trip

Yours Sincerely

Wm Williamson

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Cast in Bas-relief in real Bronze Metal

227 and 229 West Market Street,

Louisville, Ky Jan. 1884

Dear Mr Davenport

I got the photo all right many thanks. I don't see the least amateurish touch about those. I think them first class. I don't know but what it would pay me to photo my own work that way. We had a good Christmas trade I made quite a number of small etchings and the Bronze Leads had a good run. We are now in the midst of stock taking, it is a cold job. The weather here is wintry. Remembers me to all the folks and wishing you all a good new year, a little late but the wish is all the same. What do you think I am having a call now & of an for fern etchings. but I will print no more. I have 50 copies of ferns & Ivy left. a New York house wrote me last week for prices & discounts. I offered them all at 1.00 each. I have not heard from them yet.

Your Sincere friend, Wm. Williamson

Williamson Art Metal Works,

Manufacturers of Plaques, Tiles, etc.,

Cast in Bas-relief in real Bronze Metal

227 and 229 West Market Street,

Louisville, Ky June 10 1884

My Dear friend Lavenport

I send you by new
catalogue of our small

I often think of
you all and feel I ought to write
oftener, but we live such a busy
life, of worry and one thing that
those nicer traits are forgotten or
rather neglected, Since my last
severe sickness, I have never felt real
well I have had a great deal of hard
work to do, and now I find myself
unable to do anything. I am just
completely broke down, and to-morrow
I go to the country and take a rest of

I send you

I may visit an interesting locality
I am going to the mountains of West
Virginia. If I think of any thing
of interest I may write you.

If I had that camera of yours

I would be able to do some work.
I wish you would go around of The Murdock Co
to see how our goods are shown, If you see Shaw

You can ask if they send our pictures in stereo, he has been ordering
more pictures

I enclose a copy
the Cin Com together
with an abstract about
Mr Williamson, written
by Mrs Harbacek & a
copy of the "Cin"
with your excellent
transcript attached
Shall write Haggins
soon a few days

July 7, 1884

Mr Geo L Waverpool

My dear Sir

I thank you very much
for your very kind letter of the 2nd ult
& would have acknowledged it before
but for the many things claiming at-
tention in this office at the close of
the fiscal year. Williamson & I
have been intimate friends for many
years. When he first came to Louisville,
about 18 years ago, he found no scientific
association here, & came over to New
Albany, Ind (just across the river)

I joined our Society of Natural Hist.
which was then in active operation.
Many & many a night we worked
together in the rooms of the Society.
We botanized together over all the
hills, & knew every place for miles
around where a certain plant could
be found. We carried our lunch
with us, & those days seem the happiest
of my life. I can hardly realize that
they are ended forever, & that we can
never again go to the woods together. He
was one of nature's noblemen. When I first
made a few sketches of ferns, ^{we} ~~were~~ were
delighted, & then he thought of getting up
a book. He wrote out the first part of
it, but on account of his lack of educa-
tion, it was necessary for me to work it all
over, keeping as far as possible his ideas
in view, finally he furnished some rough
notes only, & towards the end, his time being
taken up with the sketches, ~~and~~ I finished the text
alone. I only mention this to show how closely we
were associated, & how deeply I feel his loss.
Of course it was all John's work, & I didn't want
him even to mention my name in the preface.
I wanted him to succeed, & would have given any
thing in the world to help him.

He was enthusiastic in the pursuit of his favorite hobby. When he turned his attention to ferns, he scarcely looked at anything else. He gave his whole heart to them.

In many respects he was unfortunate in business, though always earnest, faithful & energetic, never neglecting his work for any of his scientific hobbies. When he first came to us he was a wood-carver, & had a little shop on Green St. He was very successful & accumulated considerable property, & if he had continued in that on subsequent undertakings, also, he would have been quite independent. But in an evil hour he went into a brass foundry with a "wicked partner", & when he got rid of him & Mr. Lauchman came in in his place, Williamson was hopelessly in debt, which hung over him to the last. Finally he became associated with three gentlemen of means, & he had a fair prospect of success, though I understand that their first years work resulted in a loss. I think this worried John, but he was quite hopeful, & I feel sure that his efforts would eventually have been successful.

He was very weak when he went to West
Pa, when he reached the mountains the
weather was cold & damp. He was not
out of his room for days. Dr Barksdale
writes that he was called to see him late one
evening & found him lying on a pallet on the
bank of the river. Some boys had paddled him
up the river & brought him back with a severe
chill. The Dr had him immediately taken to
the Hotel, but he only lived half an hour.
His last conscious hours were thus spent
among woods he loved so well. I am told
that the banks of this stream & hillsides are cov-
ered with ferns. I know that if he had had
his choice he would have preferred to die
so, if only his dear old mother could have been by his side.

I have had several persons who have
been out to Mrs Williamson's to make inqui-
ry about your MSS, but so far it has not been
found. I shall go out the first opportunity &
look for it myself. It will certainly be found
either at the house or at the works. I will
send that once whenever it comes to light.

My kindest regards to yourself
& family, all of whom I have heard Williamson
speak of so often

Very truly yours E. S. Crozier

Kansas City, Cook County, Kansas
Apr 24 1876

Mr George E. Loomis

As regards the paper in question, it has been misplaced, and was, at this very late hour, sent to answer it. I was not enough of an old hand ago. Just my arrival into this beautiful new country, I found what I had been hunting for many years, and what you say was worth so much to have. The pretty little *Withia*, *decahata*. I send you a few seeds of last year's growth and when matured I will send you any quantity, as it grows in our Canons very abundantly. *Pellaea atropurpurea* and *Woodsia* obtain grow along side of it, in great quantities. When passing the *herbarium* (velocity *rities*) I shall send you a list of what specimens remain.

Yours Very Sincerely
James Wilson

St. Louis City (Letter to Kansas)
May 1 1877

Mr. E. S. Pomeroy Esq.

I have to send you roots of one little plant, I send you only
young plants in the hope they are likely to live, should you want
more roots I send you them in the Fall, as is the specimen
you wish, quantity is no object, as there are miles of it, and
so long as I am here no one need be without it. Halstead,
My herbarium has not yet arrived, and I am not prepared to
cultivate ferns: in recesses. I had a very extensive
under-wood fernery, and as soon as I get settled here hope
to have another when I will call on you to assist me.
Very sincerely yours
James M. White

Small box of roots sent by this mail.

June 10th 1890

Mr. E. S. Samuelson

Reading

I am writing in regard to exchange of ferns in just received.

I find, in looking my duplicates over that I have very few ferns on hand at present; but I can furnish you specimens of the following species if you wish:

- Polypodium pendulum* Kunze (about 10 spec.)
- Chara tenuifolia* Hook. } This I see you do not wish.
- O. lanuginosa* Nutt. (3 or 4)

Called *Wrightia* Hook (possibly more)
Cryptogramma acrostichoides R. Br.
 If I do any collecting in the mountains this summer I would be glad to send you a whole packet here. There are a few but few species in the forest my and these.

are often rather rare or local on account of our dry climate.

Please state how many of each species (of those mentioned on previous page) you desire, and whether you want them now or will wait until next autumn, when I shall probably have more.

Very Resp Yours
Wm. W. Wilson

Bx 2733

Dear

Please mention box number, as otherwise I fail to receive my mail until addressed.

W.

K

SENDER May 15th '96

Dear Sir

I send by mail of
to day the ferns you mentioned
viz (4) *Cheilanthes lanuginosa* Nutt.
(1) *Notholaena Fendleri*, Kunze. —
(2) *Pellaea Wrightiana* Hook. —
(3) *Cryptogramme acrostichoides* R. Br.
— about 40 specimens in all
including the fragmentary
fronds which were sent me
from Cañon City in this
condition. I did not label them
as it would interfere with the
postal law. The localities are
as follows. (1) Grand Cañon
of Arkansas R. (2) Do. (3) Gray's
Peak. (4) Cheyenne Cañon.

I enclose list of my
desiderata as requested.

Usually I do not ~~wish~~^{or wish} for
more than one ^{or two} good specimens
of each species, as I do not pay
particular attention to the Terres;
but if necessary to make up
the desired number more
may be added.

I expect soon to
start for the southern part of
the Territory on a collecting
trip where I expect to add large-
ly to my collections.

Yours Truly,
Wm. W. Watson
Bx 2733

Geo E Sawrport
Bostn.

K

Durham Nov. 16th 1896

Mr. Geo. E. Sampson.

Dear Sir,

I have but recently returned from Twin Lakes where I have been spending the summer and find your set of ferns which were received by my brother last spring. I have scarcely found time to examine them closely yet, but find they are mostly native, and entirely new to me.

Contrary to my expectations, I remained at Twin Lakes all summer detained by poor health, and did ^{not} collect in the southern part of the State. Therefore my collection of Ferns is quite small. I can furnish you, however with all the *Notholaena Fendleri* and *Woodsia Ozogona* & *Cheilanthes lanuginosa* you wish, also a few specimens of *C. Fendleri*. Write how many you would like &c & I will forward at once. Yours Resp. Wm. M. Wilson Bx 2733